

The Four Great Dangers.



*Each Friar, Lawyer, Fox, and Cat
Full plainly shew what they'd be at
The Goose may fly the Mouse may run
But Man and Maid are both undone.*

A
COMPANION
FOR THE
FIRE-SIDE;
OR,

Winter Evening's Amusement.
CONTAINING
A CURIOUS COLLECTION

Of entertaining and instructive

Essays,
Visions,
Relations,
Stories,
Tales,
Fables,

Allegories,
Historical Facts,
Eastern Tales,
Novels,
Remarkable Events,
Singular Occurrences, &c.

IN PROSE and VERSE.

Selected from the most eminent Writers in several
Languages; together with some curious original
Stories that never appeared in print before.

*To pass the dull Evening in Pleasure away,
To laugh at the Cares of Mankind;
Accept of a chearful Companion To-day,
To Mirth and Amusement inclin'd:
The Contents of our Volume will amply repay
The Expence that the Purchase has cost,
And none but a Blockhead will seriously say,
That his Time or his Money is lost.*

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. COOKE, at SHAKESPEARE'S
HEAD, PATER-NOSTER-ROW,
MDCCLXXIII,



T H E

P R E F A C E.

IT was the design of the *Antients*, in all their compositions, to blend instruction with entertainment; and those among the *Moderns*, who have followed their example, are generally more read, and held in greater esteem than the tedious authors of declamations in moral virtues or entertainment, calculated to inflame youthful passions, and put modesty to the blush. Compositions or compilations, calculated with no other view than to make people laugh, are generally forgotten as soon as read, whilst those abounding with moral instructions, are either thrown aside, or forgotten before they make any lasting impression on the mind. Human nature is a composition of flesh and spirit; we love what is true, but the more agreeable it is presented, the more cordially it is received. Instruction makes a deeper impression on the heart, when it appears to flow rather from generosity and benevolence, than when dictated by the despised authority of a pedagogue, or enforced by coercive power.

This work which the Editor presents to the public, has been selected from the best authors with the greatest care, and is published with the laudable design of conveying instruction under the delightful dress of entertainments.

Here

Here the giddy youth may be taught to avoid snares of the most pernicious nature, whilst their minds may enjoy a relaxation from the incumbent duties of their station. Relative duties may be learned from a recital of the virtues and vices of our fellow-creatures, and modest diffidence struggling under neglect and oppression enabled to hold up its head, in hopes of better days.

The Editor humbly hopes that this compilation will answer all the above-mentioned valuable purposes, and as such it is presented to the public rather for their use than approbation. He flatters himself (and he hopes with great reason) that neither innocence can be contaminated nor modesty put to the blush, by the perusal of this book, it will afford a reasonable entertainment to families in general, and be of great service to youth of both sexes, whose choice is to live up to the dignity of human nature, and not plunge themselves into such vices as are a nuisance to society, a disgrace to their relations, and the ruin of themselves as useful members of the community. He looks for approbation no farther than the merits of the work justly intitle him to.

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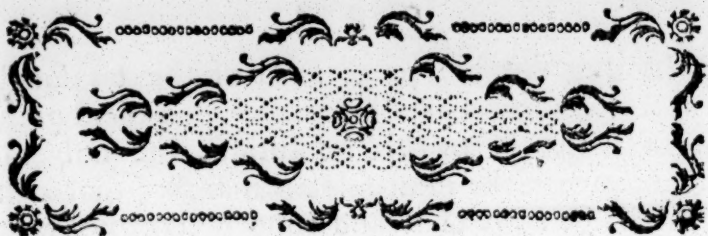
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A
COMPANION
FOR THE
FIRE-SIDE.

THE BLACK BOX.

[A Story founded on Facts.]

N opulent and powerful nobleman of the last century, having incurred a strong suspicion of treasonable practices, and finding himself exposed to the stroke of justice, consulted with his faithful steward on some practicable means of averting the impending punishment. After much deliberation, and various proposals, it was resolved, at the pressing instances of his lordship, that the steward should make himself a principal; and, by declaring
B that

that he was the sole perpetrator of the treasonable facts, totally exculpate his master. To encourage him to persevere in this resolution, the nobleman assured him, in the most solemn manner, that altho' he might be convicted and condemned, he would procure him a pardon, and allow him, as a recompence for so single a proof of his fidelity, a very considerable part of his estate.

The credulous steward, relying on these mighty promises, and instigated by the delusive prospect of future grandeur, publicly avowed the treason, declared himself to be the author and contriver of it, and absolutely cleared his lord from having the least knowledge of, or concern in it.

In consequence of this, as might reasonably be expected, sentence of death was soon after awarded against the steward, who being remanded back to prison, was visited by his lord under pretence (as a farther cloke for his own villany) of making some important discoveries relative to the treason, but in reality to flatter him with an assurance that he had procured his pardon. For this detestable purpose, he presented to him a counterfeited pardon, which he took out of a black box, telling him at the same time, that notwithstanding he had obtained this signal favour at the hands of the king, it was his majesty's royal will and pleasure, that he should be carried to the place of execution, not only to save appearances, but also as a terror to others, and that after having addressed the spectators, the pardon should be produced, and he instantly discharged.

To encourage him further, his lord exhorted him not to be dismayed at any thing that should be done or said to him, as that was mere matter of form and necessary parade, and likewise assured him, that when, at the place of execution, he should see a person on his right hand holding up a black box, it should

should be an infallible sign of his pardon being inclosed therein.

The poor servant thus wrought on by the base arts of his treacherous master, was so far from apprehending the least dangerous consequence from his present situation, that he impatiently waited for the day of his supposed execution, which being arrived, the man with the black box appeared in view as soon as he came out of prison.

When he reached the place of execution, he espied the black box at his right hand, and vainly deeming this an infallible proof of his lord's veracity, proceeded to harangue the spectators, repeatedly acquitting his master of the least imputation of the crime.

As he protracted his time to an unusual length, the sheriff desired him to hasten to a conclusion, it being time for him to see his sentence executed; but the condemned man, with an air of confidence, told him, that there was a person present who had brought his pardon from court. The man with the black box was then called forth, and the contents being presented to the sheriff, was read aloud to the following purport: "Upon sight hereof you are commanded to see that justice be executed on the prisoner."

This positive order being instantly obeyed, the credulous steward had no opportunity to discover the fraud, but fell a victim to his own folly, and the villany of his noble master, and remains an eternal warning to posterity to beware of the promises of the great, who too frequently debase themselves by little actions.

The Mercy of Affliction; an EASTERN STORY.

BOZALDAB, Caliph of Egypt, had dwelt securely for many years in the silken pavilions of pleasure, and had every morning anointed his head with the oil of gladness, when his only son Aboram, for whom he had crouded his treasures with gold, extended his dominions with conquests, and secured them with impregnable fortresses, was suddenly wounded, as he was hunting, with an arrow from an unknown hand, and expired in the field.

Bozaldab in the distraction of grief and despair, refused to return to his palace, and retired to the gloomiest grotto in the neighbouring mountain: he there rolled himself on the dust, tore away the hairs of his hoary head, and dashed the cup of consolation that patience offered him to the ground. He suffered not his mistress to approach his presence; but listened to the screams of the melancholy birds of midnight, that flit through the solitary vaults and echoing chambers of the pyramids. “Can that
 “God be benevolent,” he cry’d, “who thus
 “wounds the soul as from an ambush, with unexpected sorrows, and crushes his creatures in a moment with irremediable calamity? Ye lying
 “imans, prate to us no more of the justice and the
 “kindness of an all directing and all loving Providence! He, whom ye pretend reigns in heaven,
 “is so far from protecting the miserable sons of
 “men, that he perpetually delights to blast the
 “sweetest flowers in the garden of hope; and, like
 “a malignant giant, to beat down the strongest
 “towers of happiness with the iron mace of his
 “anger. If this Being possessed the goodness and
 “the power with which flattering priests have invested him, he would doubtless be inclined and
 “enabled

“ enabled to banish those evils which render the
 “ world a dungeon of distress, a vale of vanity and
 “ woe. I will continue in it no longer !”

At that moment he furiously raised his hand, which despair had armed with a dagger, to strike deep into his bosom; when suddenly thick flashes of lightning shot through the cavern, and a being of more than human beauty and magnitude, arrayed in azure robes, crowned with amaranth, and waving a branch of palm in his right hand, arrested the arm of the trembling and astonished Caliph, and said with a majestic smile, “ Follow me to the top of
 “ this mountain.”

“ Look from hence,” said the awful conductor,
 “ I am Caloc, the angel of peace, look from hence
 “ into the valley.”

Bozaldab opened his eyes and beheld a barren, a sultry, and solitary island, in the midst of which sat a pale, meagre and ghastly figure: it was a merchant just perishing with famine, and lamenting that he could find neither wild berries nor a single spring in this forlorn uninhabited desert; and begging the protection of heaven against the tigers that would now certainly destroy him, since he had consumed the last fuel he had collected to make nightly fires to affright them. He then cast a casket of jewels on the sand, as trifles of no use; and crept feeble and trembling to an eminence, where he was accustomed to sit every evening to watch the setting sun, and to give a signal to any ship that might haply approach the island.

“ Inhabitant of heaven,” cried Bozaldab, “ suffer
 “ not this wretch to perish by the fury of wild
 “ beasts.” “ Peace,” said the angel, “ and observe.”

He looked again, and behold a vessel arrived at the desolate isle. What words can paint the rapture of the starving merchant, when the captain offered to

transport him to his native country, if he would reward him with half the jewels of this casket! No sooner had this pitiless commander received the stipulated sum, than he held a consultation with his crew, and they agreed to seize the remaining jewels, and leave the unhappy exile in the same helpless and lamentable condition in which they discovered him. He wept and trembled, intreated and implored in vain.

“Will heaven permit such injustice to be practised?” exclaimed Bozaldab.—“Look again,” said the angel, “and behold the very ship in which, short-sighted as thou art, thou wishedst the merchant might embark, dashed in pieces on a rock: dost thou not hear the cries of the sinking sailors? presume not to direct the Governor of the universe in his disposal of events. The man whom thou hast pitied shall be taken from this dreary solitude, but not by the method thou wouldest prescribe. His vice was avarice, by which he became not only abominable, but wretched; he fancied some mighty charm in wealth, which, like the wand of Abdiel, would gratify every wish and obliterate every fear. This wealth he has now been taught not only to despise but abhor: he cast his jewels upon the sand, and confessed them to be useless; he offered part of them to the mariners, and perceived them to be pernicious: he has now learnt, that they are rendered useful or vain, good or evil, only by the situation and temper of the possessor. Happy is he whom distress has taught wisdom! But turn thine eyes to another and more interesting scene.”

The Caliph instantly beheld a magnificent palace, adorned with the statues of his ancestors wrought in jasper; the ivory doors of which, turning on hinges of the gold of Golconda, discovered a throne of diamonds,

monds, surrounded with the Rajas of fifty nations, and with ambassadors in various habits and of different complexions; on which sat Aboram the much lamented son of Bozaldab, and by his side a princess fairer than an Houri.

“Gracious Alla!—it is my son!” cried the Caliph—“O let me hold him to my heart!” “Thou canst not grasp an unsubstantial vision,” replied the angel: “I am now shewing thee what would have been the destiny of thy son, had he continued longer on the earth.” “And why,” returned Bozaldab, “was he not permitted to continue? why was I not suffered to be a witness of so much felicity and power?” “Consider the sequel,” replied he that dwells in the fifth heaven. Bozaldab looked earnestly, and saw the countenance of his son, on which he had been used to behold the placid smile of simplicity, and the vivid blushes of health, now distorted with rage, and now fixed in the insensibility of drunkenness: it was again animated with disdain, it became pale with apprehension, and appeared to be withered by intemperance; his hands were stained with blood, and he trembled by turns with fury and terror: the palace so lately shining with oriental pomp, changed suddenly into the cell of a dungeon, where his son lay stretched out on the cold pavement, gagged and bound, with his eyes put out. Soon after he perceived the favourite Sultana, who before was seated by his side, enter with a bowl of poison, which she compelled Aboram to drink, and afterwards married the successor to his throne.

“Happy,” said Caloc, “is he whom Providence has by the angel of death snatched from guilt! from whom that power is withheld, which, if he had possessed, would have accumu-

"lated upon himself yet greater misery than it
"could bring upon others."

"It is enough," cried Bozaldab; "I adore the
"inscrutable schemes of Omniscience!—From
"what dreadful evil has my son been rescued, by
"a death which I rashly bewailed as unfortunate
"and premature! a death of innocence and peace,
"which has blessed his memory upon earth, and
"transmitted his spirit to the skies."

"Cast away the dagger," replied the heavenly
messenger, "which thou wast preparing to plunge
"into thine own heart. Exchange complaint for
"silence, and doubt for adoration. Can a mortal
"look down, without giddiness and stupefaction,
"into the vast abyss of eternal wisdom? Can a
"mind that sees not infinitely, perfectly compre-
"hend any thing among an infinity of objects mu-
"tually relative? Can the channels, which thou
"commandest to be cut to receive the annual inun-
"dations of the Nile, contain the waters of the
"ocean? Remember, that perfect happiness can-
"not be conferred on a creature; for perfect hap-
"piness is an attribute as incommunicable as
"perfect power and eternity."

The angel, while he was speaking thus, stretched
out his pinions to fly back to the Empyreum; and
the flutter of his wings was like the rushing of a
cataract.

THE GOLDEN HEAD.

SOON after the burning of the stately palace of
Whitehall, one Holmes, a tradesman, who
lived in George-yard, (the spot on which Great
George-street now stands) passing over the ruins
stumbled

stumbled on something which, attracting his curiosity, he minutely observed, and discovered to be a kind of distant resemblance of a bust, but as it was greatly effaced by the effects of the fire, he could draw no certain conclusion from it.

However, he carried it home, and having hammered off the drossy mass which adhered to it, his wife scoured it, and placed it as an ornament upon an old chest of drawers. As Goody Holmes was particularly industrious in rubbing the bust, whenever she cleaned her furniture, it soon became so bright, that upon comparison it was found to be an exact likeness of the celebrated Cardinal Wolsey. One of Holmes's customers, by trade a founder, having been shewn the bust, and conceiving it to be brass, agreed to purchase it, and accordingly having paid for it by the weight, carried it home.

When the founder, in the course of his business, had occasion to melt, the head was put amongst other metal; but as he discovered something very extraordinary in the ore, he carefully abstracted the brighter and more refined particles, and offering them to the inspection of a neighbouring goldsmith, was transported with his pronouncing it to be the purest of gold.

He immediately disposed of his valuable purchase, relinquished trade, and commenced gentleman at large; but made not the least acknowledgement to Holmes, though once his intimate companion; so dead are some breasts to every sentiment of justice and gratitude. This circumstance is related on the testimony of a friend of the editor, whose father was a living witness of its authenticity.

THE INGENUOUS SPANIARD.

IN the war between Spain and England, about the second year of the reign of king Richard II. two eminent warriors, Robert Hall and John Shakell, knights, happened to take in battle the Count de Dena, a Spanish nobleman of great rank and fortune, who being by the law of arms adjudged their prisoner, was brought into England, where he left his eldest son as a pledge, while he went to Spain, in order to raise his own ransom. The Count on his return neglected to send the money, and in a little time paid the debt of nature; so that the title and estate devolving on the young hostage, the king importunately solicited the English heroes to release the Spanish cavalier. The knights, so far from complying with the king's request, would not even discover the place in which they had concealed him, and were therefore sent to the Tower, whence making their escape, they took sanctuary in Westminster Abbey: but Shakell being seized by a party of soldiers, headed by the duke of Lancaster, uncle to the king, was recommitted to the Tower, after Hall had been slain in bravely defending himself.

When the council sat upon the affair, it was resolved that Shakell should discover and deliver up the Count, and be set at liberty upon consideration that the king should settle upon him lands to the amount of an hundred marks a year, and pay him down five hundred marks in lieu of the expected ransom.

As it appeared vain to withstand the Council, Shakell produced his captive, who was no other than his man that waited on him; for the honourable Spaniard had so great a regard to the word which
he

he had solemnly passed, when he was accepted as an hostage, that he scorned to discover himself without the permission of the knight to whom he was bound; so that in the sanctuary and the Tower he served him in disguise, neglecting both his quality and his interest, when they stood in competition with his honour.

Hence we learn, that dignity of soul is not confined to any clime, sect, or party, and will always discover itself in a conduct actuated by the most noble, sublime, and disinterested principles.

INGRATITUDE. A TALE.

OF all the social virtues, gratitude is the most inculcated, and the least practised; but by none more than they who unexpectedly rise to great honours and fortunes. They often not only forget, but injure those friends who have contributed to their success or elevation.

A dean of St. Jago was so devoured with ambition, that he wanted even to learn the magic art, that he might the more effectually gratify his darling passion. Having heard that there was one Don Illian of Toledo, who was skilled in that science, he repaired thither, and after some difficulty got admission to him: he found him reading in his study, and after apologizing for his intrusion, entreated him with many protestations of gratitude, to let him become his scholar. Don Illian answered, that as he was already a dean, and of a good family, he might probably come to great preferment; but men, when they had obtained all they wanted, most commonly forgot the services that had been done them; and he was afraid that he would not fulfil the promises he had now made. The dean assured him,

that whatever good fortune befell him, he should share in it, and that he would be entirely at his disposal. Don Illian took him by the hand, thanked him for these friendly promises, and calling to a maid-servant in the house, bid her get some partridges for supper, but not to put them down to roast till he ordered her. He then led the dean down a fine stone stair-case, into a study well furnished with books and instruments. This he told him was to be the place of his lectures. But before they could sit down, two men came into the study, and brought the dean a letter sent him by the bishop his uncle, in which he acquainted him, that he was dangerously ill, and desired him to post away immediately, if he would find him alive. The dean was concerned to hear his uncle was so ill, and the more, because he could not resolve to leave the studies he was about prosecuting: he therefore sent a letter of excuse, with promise to wait upon him in a few days, and began his lectures. Within four days after came other letters, informing him that his uncle had departed this life, and that he was chosen bishop in his stead. When Don Illian heard this, he begged of him to bestow his vacant deanery upon a son of his; but the new bishop desired he would be contented awhile for his own brother must have it, but that if he and his son would go with him to St. Jago, he would take care of both their fortunes, and make them amends for this delay. Upon this, they went to St. Jago, where they staid some time. One day there came messengers to the dean with letters from the pope, naming him archbishop of Tolosa, with leave to dispose of his bishopric to whom he pleased. Don Illian upon this reminded him of what had passed, and of the promises he had made him, ending with a request of the bishopric for his son. The archbishop begged him to have a
little

little patience, and that he would not take it ill, if he could not help bestowing the bishopric on an uncle by the father's side, but that he would take them with him to Tolosa, where he would do something extraordinary for them. Here they staid two years, when an express came from the pope, which brought the archbishop a cardinal's hat, requiring his presence at Rome, and desiring him to give his demission of the archbishopric in favour of some friend. Don Illian applied to him again, and told him, that since he had failed him so often, he could not now in honour refuse gratifying his son with this vacancy. The cardinal still begged of him to acquiesce in his giving this see to an uncle by his mother's side, saying, he was very ancient, might soon drop, and that at worst, if he would accompany him to Rome, as he was now a cardinal, it would be in his power to serve him effectually. Don Illian, though vexed at these repeated disappointments, agreed to go with him to Rome, where Don Illian pressed him from time to time to do something for his son, but met with nothing but delays and excuses. In the mean time the pope died, and the cardinal being unanimously elected pope in his room, Don Illian told him he could now find no excuse for not making good his promises. The pope, resenting his importunity, began to treat him roughly, saying, he was a forcer and a heretic, and that he would send him to the inquisition. At these words, Don Illian called out aloud to the maid-servant to put down the partridges to roast. The imaginary pope found himself in Toledo, and in the same apartment from which he had never stirred, and still the very identical dean of St. Jago; but so confounded and ashamed at what had passed, that he could not look Don Illian in the face; who, re-conducting him to the door, wished him a good night, telling him that
he

he had proved sufficiently the strength of his dependence upon him, in case he had assisted him in the gratification of his ambitious views.

FILIAL PIETY Rewarded.

A Merchant of considerable trade, being by a train of losses and disappointments, reduced to negotiate a letter of licence from his creditors, all consented to give it him, except one, who not only peremptorily refused to join with the rest, but sued for his debt, which was about three hundred pounds, and threw the unhappy petitioner into a gaol. His son, who was then out of town, on the first news of this misfortune, without seeing his father, posted directly to the house of this severe creditor, and employed the most moving intercessions for a discharge. But these producing no effect, he begged him to accept of his person as a ransom for his father's, and offered to go joyfully to prison in his stead. This too being refused, the youth, in a transport of despair, embraced the knees of this inflexible creditor, and declared he would not stir till he was either torn from them, or had obtained his suit. The creditor, struck to the heart with so much resolution, in so worthy a cause, changed his purposes as if by miracle, and raising him gently up, told him, that so good a son could not make a bad son-in-law; and that he hoped he would forgive his severity for the reparation he was disposed to make for it, which was not to be confined to the release of his father, but be extended to the bestowing upon him his only daughter, with a fortune that would amply make up the losses of his family. The joy of his son may be more easily imagined, than that which was felt by the father, at the news of his

his deliverance, the retrieval of his affairs, and above all the evidences of filial piety, from which all this good was derived.

The Prevalence of LOVE, and Force of PASSION.

DON Guzman, a wealthy merchant in the city of Madrid, was father to Juan, a youth of sense and honour, and guardian to the lady Leonora, whose beauty was only exceeded by the virtues of her mind.

The son and ward conceived for each other in their earliest years, a friendship which, in process of time, terminated in the sincerest love and most cordial affection, and such were their respective dispositions, as to afford the agreeable prospect of a series of uninterrupted happiness. But an event occurred before the consummation of their wishes, which cast a gloom over all their pleasing hopes, and produced the most exquisite pain and anxiety, that can possibly torture the human mind.

The Marquis de Mendosa saw the beautiful Leonora, and was so struck with the lustre of her charms, that he determined at all events to obtain her in marriage. As he was extremely rich, and had very great influence at court, he prevailed with Guzman to permit his addresses to the lady, notwithstanding her prior engagement with his own son Juan, for whom it was suspected he had procured a person of much greater fortune than his fair and virtuous ward.

Though Guzman determined to sacrifice Leonora to the will of the Marquis, he was at a loss whether he should acquaint his son, that he had changed his mind concerning the match, or whether he should impart it to him by some common friend.

At

At length, however, thinking himself the properest person to disclose the affair, he took an opportunity of telling him, that for divers weighty reasons he must resign all thoughts of possessing Leonora. Don Juan was thunderstruck at the information, and gave his father to understand, that though he owed him all duty and obedience, he could by no means relinquish a claim to which he was entitled by every pretension founded on justice or honour. Having hinted this, the generous youth retired to his chamber to avoid the pressing instances of his father, who afterwards sent for Leonora, and acquainted her with the passion that the noble Marquis had conceived for her, and his design of aggrandizing her name by a speedy marriage into so ancient and honourable a family. Leonora started at the proposal, and solemnly vowed eternal celibacy, unless she gave her hand to the generous and constant Juan, who was sole possessor of her heart, which therefore could not admit the smallest place for the greatest monarch upon earth. Guzman, incensed at the resolution of his ward, proceeded to more vigorous measures, and after a severe reprimand for her obstinacy, ordered her to prepare herself to receive a visit from the Marquis of Mendosa, as a person with whom she was allotted to spend the remainder of her life, and further enjoined her to deny the addresses of Juan. This last injunction completed her despair, and her grief was almost turned to fury, insomuch that she departed from her guardian's apartment, in order to give full vent to the sorrow which overwhelmed her faithful bosom. She had for some time past observed a coolness between Juan and his father, and now perceiving the cause, determined to write to him, wisely judging that a personal interview at this critical juncture would inflame the old man's resentment, and excite him to
such

such a conduct as would be productive of much disquiet both to herself and lover. Accordingly she acquainted him of the injunction laid upon her not to receive his addresses, and painted the state and condition of her mind in the most striking and affecting colours. The domestic who delivered the letter brought back an answer, in which Don Juan conjured her by the love she had for him not to forget him, and assured her that his life was in her hands, nor would he hold it by any other tenure than her constancy.

As Don Juan, who was at this time on his father's business, absent from Madrid, could not afford her immediate assistance, Leonora determined to go into a convent; and having imparted her design to her waiting-maid, a coach was prepared, which soon convey her to an abbey, of which the abbess was her relation and particular friend. Guzman no sooner heard of his ward's elopement and the spot of her residence, than through the interest of the Marquis, he obtained permission to place in the convent a woman that was one of his creatures, in order to be a spy upon Leonora: the nuns were likewise ordered to prevent any correspondence between her and Don Juan. The Marquis sent to her repeatedly to desire permission to visit her at the grate, but she always refused, and not without tokens of scorn. Incensed at this behaviour, he determined to marry her merely to gratify his resentment, and after deliberating on the means of accomplishing his design, thought no expedient so effectual as that of removing Juan to a considerable distance from Leonora, nor was it long before fortune presented a favourable opportunity. The lover, notwithstanding the precautions of his father, and the vigilance of the woman placed by him in the convent as a spy upon his ward, had found means to correspond with her
by

by letter, so that it was agreed through the assistance of the nun who was her confident, that Juan should come in the night-time over a particular part of the garden-wall, that was not so high as the rest, and return after his visit the same way.

The enraptured youth eagerly repaired to the spot appointed, but to his confusion and astonishment had no sooner mounted the wall than he espied a person walking with two attendants behind him, in the street next to the garden. This person, anxiously desirous of knowing who had got into the convent, sent for the watch, which he posted at the very place where he imagined he was to come back. Having made this disposition, the Marquis de Mendosa (for he was the person) sent to acquaint the nuns that there was a man in the garden. While the lovers, little suspecting the fresh misfortune that was ready to fall upon them, were giving each other the most reciprocal marks of their affection, they heard a confused noise in the convent, which obliged them to separate. Don Juan hastened over the wall, but was no sooner down than two men rushed upon him, took away his sword, and in the king's name charged him to follow them. The captain of the guard caused him to be committed to prison, and drew up an information against him, which was next day laid before the solicitor-general.

Don Juan now imagined that his ruin was unavoidable, the violation of the walls of a convent being in Spain considered as a capital offence. His death, indeed, appeared inevitable, and the affair became the common topic of discourse throughout the metropolis, where Don Juan was generally beloved: all men of honour pitied his case, and solicited for him, but with small hopes of success. Don Guzman and the Marquis now came to a resolution of proposing to Leonora (as the king favoured the design)

sign) this alternative; either to save the life of Juan by consenting to wed Mendosa, or hasten his death by an obstinate refusal. A proposal of so delicate and important a nature could not but greatly embarrass the distressed fair one, who evinced every token of doubt and anxiety, and at length burst into this exclamation: "If this is the only way of saving the life of Don Juan, I rather chuse to die with him, as I am well assured he loves me too well to consent to live upon such terms, and would grieve that I had prevented his death by such a concession!"

The Marquis, enraged at her perseverance, declared, that as she was willing that Don Juan should die, he would join with the nuns in prosecuting him, and assist those who sought his ruin. This declaration touched Leonora in the most sensible part, in so much that her resolution failing, she consented, in order to save the life she held most dear, and having slowly uttered, "Save the life of Don Juan, I will obey," fainted. The Marquis procured her relief, and when she recovered, she desired to be carried to her chamber.

The pardon was accordingly procured for Juan, but, previous to the delivery, Mendosa being for concluding the marriage, the unfortunate Leonora was wedded to his mortal enemy, whom nevertheless she considered as his deliverer.

Don Juan heard nothing of these transactions in the prison, where he was abandoned to the most melancholy reflections, so that he waited with impatience the time of his death; and the thoughts of its approach was the only comfort he had, when the news was brought that the king had signed his pardon. On his being acquainted with the terms, description cannot paint the agitation of his soul, as the various impressions consequent upon it seemed

as it were to have broken the very springs which put it in motion.

The person who acquainted him with Leonora's marriage, endeavoured to pacify him by a vindication of her conduct, giving him a particular detail of what his unfortunate mistress had suffered, and of the necessity to which she was reduced, of giving her hand to the Marquis of Mendosa.

The generous youth stood motionless for some time, till at length the passion he had for Leonora having recovered entire possession of his soul, he cried out, in a plaintive tone, "Alas! why has she loved me to such a degree? or rather, why did she not let me die? what shall I do with a life I so much hate?"

While Don Juan was thus complaining, the officers of justice came to set him at liberty; and he no sooner reached his own habitation, than he wrote to Leonora, expressing the greatest concern for the late transaction, and his unfeigned desire of the satisfaction of dying at her feet. She returned an immediate answer, modestly vindicating her late conduct, and representing the inexpediency of granting the favour requested.

The unfortunate Juan was so affected by this circumstance, that he resolved to indulge melancholy till it put an end to his misfortune, and accordingly shut himself up at home, spending all his time in venting the bitterest complaints against the severities of his fortune.

While he was in this situation, a stranger desired to speak with him, and was no sooner admitted into his apartment, than he declared himself to have been the servant of the Marquis of Mendosa, that his master had discovered him when he got into the convent, sent him immediately to give notice of it to the nuns, and posted the watch under the wall, by whom he was arrested.

The injured Juan, who could not stifle his resentment a single moment, immediately sent the Marquis a challenge, couched in such terms as he could not refuse without bringing an eternal stigma on his character; it being therefore accepted, the antagonists met, and without any parley drew their swords and fought most furiously. After a strenuous encounter, Juan determining to put an end by one push, to a duel which had lasted so long, made a full pass at the Marquis, and run him into the breast; but received at the same time a stab in the bottom of his belly, which was altogether as dangerous. Both of the combatants lost so much blood that they could no longer stand on their feet, but fell down together the moment that a coach came up to them. This proved to be the carriage of Leonora, who having seen the challenge upon the table, had hastened with all speed to prevent the fatal consequence. Words cannot express the divided state of the unfortunate Leonora's mind in this critical situation. Duty engaged her to support her husband; affection diverted her attention towards her lover; she shed tears in abundance while she was stopping the blood that flowed from the wounds of her husband; nor were the tears less sincere that were shed for the wounds of Don Juan, which continued bleeding. But the principal source of her grief was the necessity she was under of leaving her lover in that condition: love, however, at length prevailed over decorum; and she staid till a servant whom she had sent to the convent of the Carthusians, brought some of the nuns attendants, who carried Don Juan to the convent.

Though no audible converse passed upon this occasion between Leonora and Juan, the Marquis could not but perceive the cause of his wife's delaying her return home, nor could any thing but the languor

langour consequent on the duel prevent him from reproaching her in the severest terms. The duel was well known at court; but as neither of their wounds proved mortal, justice took no cognizance of the matter and there was no prosecution.

When the Marquis recovered from his wounds, such continual disputes happened between him and his spouse, who could not bear the least indignity offered to the name of her beloved Juan, that a separation being agreed upon, Leonora betook herself to a solitary retirement in order to indulge her reflections on the extraordinary fortunes through which she had passed, before she had attained to the age of five and twenty years. Don Juan, whose love though passionate was honourable, and therefore would not suffer him to make the least indignant proposal to its object, determined to quit Madrid, and had almost finished the necessary preparations for his departure, when he received the news that the Marquis, in a fit of jealousy, rage and despair, had plunged a fatal javelin into his breast, and in a moment put a period to a more wretched existence. This circumstance so affected old Guzman, that sensible of his error in preventing, for a time at least, a union designed by heaven, he hastened to his son, and himself conducted him to his beauteous bride, and soon after joined their hands, to the general joy of the family, and the whole city of Madrid.

THE SAGACIOUS INDIAN.

AN Indian of Peru, who had lost a horse, discovered, after diligent search, that a Spaniard had stolen it: he complained to the magistrate of the place, and the parties were ordered to appear; when the Spaniard offering to swear that the horse was his own,

own, the poor Indian was on the point of losing his cause; but suddenly throwing a cloke over the horse's head, he said to the Spaniard. "If it be really your horse, you can surely tell of which eye he is blind." The Spaniard, after some hesitation, and depending at least on the chance of the guess, said, it was the left. "May it please your worship," said the Indian, taking the cloke off, "he is blind of neither." The judge perceiving the roguery of the Spaniard, and admiring the natural acuteness of the Indian, ordered the horse to be restored to him, with costs of suit, and committed the thief to prison.

PRIDE whimsically PUNISHED.

A Grave supercilious master of a college in Oxford, having some affairs to transact in London, set out for it, for the first time of his life, without knowing a step of the road: but thinking it beneath his dignity to enquire, he rode close after the stage-coach which he knew was bound for that city, and by not losing sight of it, got snug and well to High-Wickam. Here indeed he happened to put up at a different inn; but keeping a sharp look-out for his pilot-coach, it appeared at length, and following it as before, found himself in the evening safely arrived—at Oxford. The case was thus: the coach had exchanged passengers with that which came from London, and, by returning to Oxford had led the grave Doctor into this mistake.

THE SLAVE of DAMASCUS.

A Slave, who had fled from the Caliph of Damascus, being retaken, the Caliph in his presence consulted the Vizier upon his punishment. The Vizier advised his being immediately put to death: at hearing of which the slave cried out, May it please your majesty, I shall contentedly submit to this sentence, if I have one favour previously granted me. What is that, said the Caliph? Why, that I may kill this Vizier, who has advised my death, for then your majesty will have cause to order me to execution; whereas my present fault of escaping only from a servitude to which I was not born, does not deserve so rigorous a sentence. "Sir," interrupted the Vizier, "I have discovered that my own rashness has exposed me to this slave; I ought to have reflected, that an attack upon the life of another is unjust and cruel, and can never be made without endangering one's own." The slave was forgiven, and immediately made free.

Extraordinary Instance of FEMALE ART in the Destruction of two unfortunate HUSBANDS.

DURING the reign of Lewis XIV. of France, a young gentleman named Levant, of small fortune but honourable descent, took a resolution of attending his sovereign, among others, in an expedition against Holland, in order to augment his circumstances, and add to his reputation. At the time of his departure, he had been married but three months to a young lady of great beauty, who having heard no tidings concerning him for five years, concluded he had fallen in battle. This opinion being confirmed

confirmed by a letter from one of her husband's most intimate friends, who basely designed to supplant him in her affections, the lady thought herself at liberty to change her condition a second time. The pretended friend arrived soon after at Paris, and waiting upon her under pretence of delivering to her a diamond ring, the property of her deceased husband, (as supposed) found means to insinuate himself into her good graces, and in a few days obtained her in marriage. The second husband not proving so agreeable in his temper and deportment as the former, (though it will appear at the sequel she had little love for either) she heartily repented of the match, and wished for a speedy exemption from the obligation. In a short time, however, she received a very unexpected visit from the first husband, who was entirely ignorant of his wife's second marriage; and when acquainted with it, absolutely exculpated her, and determined to abide by the decision of the law. It was accordingly decreed in court, that she should quit the second, and return to the former husband, with which she seemed heartily satisfied, insomuch that they lived together very happily, and she affected to behave towards him with the utmost tenderness and affection. This feigned disposition so conciliated his esteem, that he indulged her in the most unreasonable desires; and as he was extremely uneasy if any thing ruffled her temper, he enquired of her one day, when she put on a most dejected countenance, the cause of her anxiety, when the artful vixen thus replied: "How can I refrain from concern since
 " I am persuaded you are now in greater danger
 " than you could be in the Dutch war, as I am
 " credibly assured my second husband has taken a
 " resolution to assassinate you that he may enjoy
 " me? hence you may easily judge, that I, who
 " love you most tenderly, cannot have a moment's
 C " peace

“ peace either night or day, till I am delivered from
 “ my too well grounded fears, by the designed vil-
 “ lains being prevented through the detection or
 “ destruction of your unworthy rival.” The hus-
 band was greatly alarmed at the information, and
 being enamoured to distraction of this insidious wo-
 man, resolved to execute whatever she should pro-
 pose. Accordingly, having insinuated to him, that
 there was no other medium than that of killing or
 being killed, she proposed that the rival should be
 invited to sup with them before his departure for
 Burgundy, (which was at hand) and that then the
 affair should be accomplished. The manner of his
 death, as concerted between them, was the first to
 ply him with liquor, in which a sleeping potion
 was to be infused, and then, having sent the servants
 on divers errands, to strangle him. The man ac-
 cepting the invitation, came according to appoint-
 ment, and the murder was committed without the
 least noise or resistance; but the most extraordinary
 circumstance was the method this cunning lady took
 to free herself from the guilt, and involve her re-
 maining husband in ruin and destruction. She de-
 sired her accomplice to take the body on his shoul-
 ders, in order to convey it to the river behind the
 garden wall, and as he was passing along artfully
 tacked his clothes to those of the deceased; so that
 when he came to the very brink of the river, she
 gave her loaded husband a violent push, and at one
 stroke sent both the dead and the living to the
 bottom.

It was the general opinion of the town for some
 time, that the two rivals were gone to decide the
 quarrel in some remote place, but the bodies being
 found about a month after by some fishermen, the
 wife was taken up on suspicion, and according to
 the laws of France being threatened with torture
 unless she confessed, she made a full discovery, and

was

was burnt alive as a just punishment for so atrocious and complicated a crime.

THE MOCK DOCTOR.

HELVETIUS, physician in ordinary to the Queen of France, had a coachman whose intellects did not very much exceed those of the beasts he drove. John, however, one day took it into his head to tell his master that he was weary of being no better than a coachman at small wages, and hard work, and that he had a great mind to be a doctor of physic, which he observed was a much more easy way of getting money; and that possibly, with a little good luck, he might come to ride in a chariot of his own, instead of driving another's. "A physician, John!" says his master, "but how are you qualified?" "Oh! as to that, master, you need never fear," replied John, "if you will give me some of your instructions, teach me a dozen cramp words, and let me visit a few patients with you, I'll warrant you I will do and say as you do, and I shall be bound to pray for you the longest day I have to live."

Helvetius humoured the fellow's project, and told him, he would take him out the next day upon a visit to one of his patients. Accordingly John, after providing an occasional coachman, and being equipped by his master with a voluminous wig, and all the formal exterior of his new profession, went with him to a patient, with whom the plan had been concerted the night before. Being admitted, the Doctor, after the usual process of feeling the gentleman's pulse, and the like, which was heedfully remarked by the candidate, desired to know how many stools he had had, and what was the condition of them. Upon this a pan was brought to him

of chantilly porcelain, virgin ware out of the shop, when the Doctor gravely called for a spoon, and by way of tasting, eat two or three spoonfuls, assuring his patient that it was very laudible matter; and so in fact it was, being no other than an excellent marmalade of apricots prepared for carrying on the jest. John, whose stomach had turned at first, recovered a little at seeing his master eat so favourously. The Doctor took his fee, and they left the patient. The next day John was sent alone, where after mimicking as near as he could what his master had done on the preceding day, he came in course to the state of the stools. The pan and spoon were then produced, and John, who had resolved to act his part throughout, took a spoonful, and was properly affected both by the taste and smell of the contents, being real, unadulterated, fecal matter. This disconcerted John's prescription so much, that the patient pretending to be affronted, dismissed him without the consolation of a fee. John returned home cured of his ambition of being a Doctor; and requested as a great favour, to be re-instated on his coach-box.

A B O A T S W A I N's Contrivance to save himself from being EATEN.

WHEN the famous Dampier was making his wild searches, they happened to be out at sea, far distant from any shore, in want of all necessaries, insomuch that they began to look, not without hunger, on each other. The boatswain was a fat, healthy, fresh fellow, and attracted the eyes of the whole crew. In such extreme necessity all ceremony was laid aside, all forms of superiority were forgot: the captain was safe only by being carrion, and the boatswain must be cut up. He
saw

saw their intention, and desired he might speak a few words before they proceeded; which being permitted, he spoke as follows:

“Gentlemen sailors,

“Far be it from me to speak for any private advantage of my own, but I should not die with a good conscience, if I did not confess to you that I am not sound. I say, gentlemen, justice and the testimony of a good conscience, as well as love of my country, to which, I hope you will all return, oblige me to own, that Black Kate, at Deptford, has made me very unsafe to eat; and (I speak it with shame) I am afraid I should poison you.”

This speech had an excellent effect in the boat-swain's favour; but the surgeon protested he had cured him, and, as a proof of the truth of his assertion, offered to eat the first steak himself. The boat-swain replied, (like a true orator who knew his auditors, and in hopes of gaining time) “That he was heartily glad if he could be for their service, and he thanked the surgeon for his information. However, said he, I must inform you for your own good, that ever since my cure I have been very thirsty and dropical; I therefore presume it would be much better to tap me and drink me off, than eat me at once, and have no man in the ship fit to be drank.” As he was going on with his harangue, a fresh gale arose, which gave them hopes of a better repast at the nearest shore, to which they arrived the next morning.

A WONDERFUL STORY.

TOWARD the latter end of queen Ann's wars, captain John Beams, commander of the York merchant, arrived at Barbadoes from England. Having disembarked all his lading, which consisted chiefly of coals, the sailors, who had been employed in the dirty work, ventured into the sea to wash themselves; they had not been long in the water before a person on board spied a shark making towards them, and gave them notice of their danger; upon which they swam back, and all of them, except one man, reached the boat in safety: him the monster overtook, and griping him by the small of the back, soon cut him asunder and swallowed the lower part of his body: the remaining part was taken up and carried on-board. The deceased had on board a dear and intimate friend, who no sooner saw the remaining part of the lifeless trunk of his much loved companion, then he vowed to make the devourer disgorge the other, or lose his life in the attempt; then plunged instantly into the sea: the shark beheld him, and made furiously towards him. Both were equally eager, the one of his prey, the other to revenge his friend's untimely death. The moment the shark opened his rapacious jaws, his adversary dexterously diving, and grasping him with his left hand, somewhat below the upper fins, successfully employed his knife in his right hand, giving him repeated stabs in the belly: the enraged shark, after many unavailing efforts, finding himself overmatched in his own element, endeavoured to disengage himself; sometimes plunging towards the bottom, sometimes rolling on the surface of the waves. The crew of several surrounding vessels beheld the unequal conflict, uncertain from which

of

of the combatants the streams of blood had flowed: till at length the shark, much weakened by the loss of blood, made towards the shore. The sailor now flushed with the hope of victory, pushed his foe with redoubled ardour, and by the help of an ebbing tide, dragged him on shore, ripped open his bowels, and having united the severed carcase of his friend, laid both parts of the body in one hospitable grave.

THE HUMOROUS COBLER.

A Candidate for a seat in parliament, who to gain a temporary popularity in a small borough, practised every mean condescension, was informed that nothing could tend more to secure his election than the winning over a certain cobbler, who, what with his relations amongst the voters, and the facetiousness of his humour, had a very considerable interest. He accordingly applied to him for his favour; when the cobbler said, "Kiss me, and then I'll readily talk with you." This was immediately complied with. "Now," continued the cobbler, "if for the sake of a few votes, you would kiss the begrimed face of such a dirty, low-lived black-guard as I am, I make no doubt, but for a place or a pension you would kiss any smooth courtier's backside; so, my very flabbering friend, you have no vote of mine, I promise you."

THE PRAISE of LAZINESS.

[In a humorous Letter to a Lady.]

YOU expect, perhaps, madam, in this, an apology for laziness; but behold a panegyric, and a panegyric in form it would be, if I was not too lazy to write one. However, buried in a well-

bolstered downy elbow chair, with my legs canted over one of the arms, between whistling and yawning, I ordered my emanuensis to set down some indigest thoughts that occurred to me towards the plan of such a work.

Exposition of the Work.

Whatever is of most advantage to all conditions, public and private, must be the most perfect scheme. That of laziness then unites in it these rare qualities.

Advantages to the Government.

A government is compleatly happy, that has a number of lazy people under it.

The truly lazy, as they have no ambition, are far from forming any cabals, or engaging in any party : on the contrary, they make the quietest of all subjects.

Provided you do not disturb their personal tranquillity, they never criticise the measures of government. If it costs them no more than a little money, they think they have a good bargain of it. A penny-worth of ease is worth a penny.

Advantages to Society.

They are never guilty of slander : for scarcely exercising any thought about themselves, they have none to bestow upon the affairs of their neighbours.

Their laziness is also a security for their being just : they value their ease too much to contrive or practise any wrong.

They are incapable of going through the fatigues of a law-suit : who, therefore, would not wish to have them for relations ?

Libels

Libels and satires they never publish ; the trouble it would cost to write them, saves them even from the imputation. Careless of their own reputation, they have no motive to attack that of others.

General Reflexions, and Heads of Chapters.

Laziness preserves the probity of an honest man, and frustrates the designs of the dishonest ; retirement, which thousands give themselves up to, under various pretences, is only a disguise for laziness.

Philosophy and apathy are nothing but laziness.

Constancy is laziness itself, which hates the trouble of changing.

Description of voluptuousness. Its intimate alliance with laziness.

Examination of the heart and sentiments of men. He enjoys happiness in proportion to his laziness.

Means of obtaining it.

Means of preserving it.

Picture of an eligible laziness. Criticism upon the state that is opposed to it.

Quotations from a number of excellent authors, antient and modern, who have written in praise of laziness, and of the lazy. The catalogue of those whose works implicitly form the panegyric upon laziness, would be too immense.

I enjoy all these ideas ; but am too lazy to communicate them, being wearied even to death with dictating this plan. I wish some charitable hand would undertake the work for the good of mankind :

I shudder, however, at the thought of all the labour it would cost him.

I have the honour to be,

Madam, yours, &c:

The Story of CLARINDA; containing many remarkable Adventures, and some useful Hints.

CLARINDA was neither born to a fortune, nor possessed of the smallest share of beauty, but in the early part of life applied herself so steadily to reading and the improvement of the mind, that it appeared she designed to atone by the excellence of her understanding, for the defects of her person. But when she arrived to years of maturity, and became conversant with the world, either the flatteries which her wit procured her, or her natural vanity, engaged her to imagine her eyes had as much power as her understanding.

She had naturally a great inclination for poetry, and her success in one song attracted the notice of a young gentleman of very considerable fortune, who soon became enamoured of her happy talents in ballad writing. Clarinda attributed the impression, not to her poetry but her beauty; however, she continued to furnish him with such productions as flattered his vanity and humoured his caprice; till at length, that she might no longer mistake the cause of her mighty influence over him, he presented her with a purse of an hundred guineas, and settled on her fifty pounds a year, in token of his regard to her poetical genius.

This greatly enhancing her opinion of her own capacity, she determined on quitting the country where

where she then resided, and repaired to London, the rendezvous of the gay, the young and the fair. Thus resolved, she sent a person to Cambridge (from whence she was distant but two miles) to take a place for her in the coach. It was her fortune to go up with a young student of the university, whom we shall call Urbanus, who was himself an admirer of the muses, and acquainted with most of the beaux esprits in London of either sex. Clarinda, by repeating some of her verses, and her attracting deportment, perfectly engaged the young student in her service.

Being arrived in town, she took leave of her new acquaintance at the inn, having been informed before how she might send to him as soon as she was settled, which she designed to do, by his advice, as near Covent Garden as possible, that being a place whither the wits generally resort. Accordingly, in a few days she took a genteel lodging in Southampton-street, where, when she was fixed, Urbanus had soon notice, and as soon repaired to her abode. He gallanted her about to the female wits, and introduced all the male whom he thought worthy of her acquaintance. It was not long before her lodgings were the daily resort of many who really had wit, and of more who desired to be thought to have it, insomuch that in the space of about six months she had ingratiated herself into the favour of many of her own sex of quality, as she knew how to flatter them exquisitely well; and the men of figure and quality, as well as those of wit, constantly paid their attendance on the ladies at her apartment. Among the rest, there was a gentleman of great fortune, who was a person of intolerable vanity, that without either parts or person set himself up as a prodigy for accomplishments both of body and mind. Clarinda determined to

avail herself of these foibles, in order, if possible to secure so valuable a prize, and as no method appeared so effectual as that of persuading him she was in love with him, she sent him a song to that effect, which pierced him through the very soul; and a mixture of vanity and compassion made him resolve to make the poetess his wife, whatever might be the consequence. The wedding-day was therefore appointed, and to make as little noise as possible, it was resolved that the nuptials should be celebrated at a place between thirty or forty miles distant from London.

Thus Clarinda by the force of her wit, from a state of obscurity rendered herself respected by the most sensible part of the town, and laid such a foundation for happiness in life, as nothing but the same cause could possibly destroy. She was now mistress of a reputable husband, and a very good estate, which are two necessary ingredients in the composition of a woman's felicity. They lived with tolerable satisfaction in the country for about two months; but the season of the year, and Clarinda's extreme love of conversation, rendered this sequestered life very disagreeable, so that they repaired to London, and having taken an elegant house in Pall-mall, were visited by the gay and airy from all quarters of the town.

Would-be, (for that was her husband's name) though possessed of so high an opinion of himself, was of a very jealous disposition, and of consequence soon grew weary of such a promiscuous course of men and women as his wife Clarinda drew together. He likewise fancied that those freedoms she permitted to some of her male visitors, whom she called platonic lovers, was only a specious pretext to cover more criminal concerns, and therefore first admonished his lady, that this conduct

was

was not agreeable to him; and when that would not prevail, he flatly informed her, that for the future his doors should be shut against all manner of company.

It would be tedious to recount the daily altercations which this resolution of Would-be produced: suffice it therefore to observe, that from words the surly husband proceeded to blows; from blows to a separation of beds; and from thence, in a few months, to a separation of families.

Clarinda, however, applied to Doctors Commons, and having obtained a very handsome separate maintenance, fixed herself in new lodgings, which soon became the resort of the gay and the witty.

Urbanus, her first acquaintance, had been some time out of town, and therefore ignorant of the most important revolutions of her life, especially of the unsettled and various parts of it, since matrimony. He retained his love for her, and frequently expressed it; she received it as her custom was, and permitted him to be her platonic admirer.

Would-be, notwithstanding the separation, sometimes visited her, and happening to come at a time when Urbanus was kissing her, and she admitting his embraces with all the patience that she could a husband, the jealous madman, fired with indignation, drew his sword, and at one pass slew the unfortunate student. Clarinda, expecting the same fate, fled out of the room, and whilst her husband's rage pursued her, the house was alarmed; and Would-be taken into custody for the murder of Urbanus.

This was a melancholy effect of her follies, but the consequence was most dreadful, since she was compelled to be an evidence against her own husband, and he was cast by her evidence chiefly, the other being only circumstances.

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The rash Would-be was condemned, and suffered the sentence of the law, declaring his entire aversion to Clarinda, cursing the day on which he had first seen her, and that day above all, when he was so infatuated as to wed her.

This fatal accident struck Clarindia with some serious reflections on the dire event of her obstinacy and conquest, so that burning all her books of wit and poetry she retired into the remotest part of Wales; where contenting herself with her annuity of fifty pounds, she led a miserable life till death put an end to her troubles; affording a memorable proof, of how little consequence mere wit is, when compared with the accomplishments of a wife.

The two NEGRO FRIENDS.

AMONG the negroes belonging to a gentleman of the island of St. Christopher's, was a young woman, whom those of her own complexion looked upon as a most extraordinary beauty. There were also in the same plantation two young fellows remarkable for the comeliness of their persons, and for the steady friendship they bore each other. It happened that both of them fell in love with the female negro abovementioned, who would have been very glad to have taken either of them for her husband, provided they could have agreed between themselves which should be the man: but they were both so passionately in love, that neither of them could think of giving her up to this rival; and at the same time so true to one another, that neither of them would think of attempting to gain her without his friend's consent. The torments of these lovers were the constant discourse of the poor
of

of the family to which they belonged, who could not forbear observing the strange complication of passions which perplexed the hearts of the poor negroes, who often dropped expressions of the uneasiness they underwent, and how impossible it was for either of them ever to be happy.

After a long struggle between love and friendship, truth and jealousy, they one day took a walk together into a wood, taking their mistress along with them; where after abundance of lamentations, they stabbed her to the heart, of which she immediately died.

A slave who was at his work, not far from the place where this tragical affair was acted, hearing the shrieks of the dying person, ran to see what was the occasion of them. He there discovered the woman lying dead upon the ground, with the two negroes, one on each side of her, kissing the dead body, weeping over it, and beating their breast in the utmost agonies of grief and despair. He immediately ran to the English family, with the news of what he had seen; who upon coming to the place saw the woman dead, and the two negroes expiring by her with wounds they had given themselves.

The SURGEON and MALEFACTOR.

IT is a custom with some surgeons who beg the bodies of condemned malefactors, to go to the gaol and bargain for the carcase with the criminal himself. One of the Faculty went according to custom, and was admitted to the condemned men on the morning they were to die. He communicated his business and fell into discourse with a little fellow, who refused twelve shillings, and insisted upon fifteen for his body. An undaunted fellow
who

who was condemned for murder, very forwardly, and like a man who was wishing to deal, told him, "Look you, Mr. Surgeon, that little dry fellow, who has been half starved all his life, and is now half dead with fear, cannot answer your purpose. I have ever lived highly and freely, my veins are full, I have not pined in imprisonment; you see my crest swells to your knife, and after Jack-Ketch has done, upon my honour you'll find me as sound as any bullock in the markets. Come, for twenty shillings I am your man."—"Done," says the Surgeon, "there's a guinea."—This witty rogue took the money, and as soon as he had it in his hand, cries, "A bite, I am to be hanged in chains."

THE CRUEL OFFICER Punished.

IN the reign of Queen Anne, a soldier belonging to a marching regiment, which was quartered in the city of Worcester, was taken up for desertion; and being tried before a court martial was sentenced to be shot. The colonel and lieutenant-colonel being at that time at London, the command of the regiment descended in course to the major, a man of a most cruel and inhuman disposition. The day on which the deserter was to be executed being arrived, the regiment, as is usual on these occasions, was drawn out to see the execution.

It is the custom on these occasions for the several corporals to cast lots for this disagreeable office: and when every one expected to have seen the lot cast as usual, they were surprised to find that the major had given orders, that the prisoner should die by the hands of his own brother, who was only a private man in the same company; and who when the
cruel

cruel order arrived, was taking his leave of his unhappy brother, and with tears fast flowing, that expressed the anguish of his soul, was hanging for the last time about his neck.

On his knees did the poor fellow beg that he might not have a hand in his brother's death; and the poor prisoner, forgetting for a moment his petitions to heaven, begged to die by any hands but those of a brother. The unrelenting officer, however, could by no means be prevailed on to revoke his cruel sentence, tho' intreated to do so by every inferior officer of the regiment; but on the contrary, he swore that he, and he only, should be the executioner, if it was merely for example sake, and to make justice appear more terrible. When much time had been wasted in fruitless endeavours to soften the rigour of this inhuman sentence, the prisoner prepares to die, and the brother to be the executioner.

The major, strict to his maxims of cruelty, stands close to see that the piece was properly loaded, which being done he directs that the third motion of his cane shall be the signal of his discharge, and at the third motion receives (instead of the prisoner) the bullets through his hand.

The man had no sooner discharged his piece, than throwing it on the ground, he exclaimed as follows:—"He that can give no mercy, no mercy let him receive. Now I submit! I had rather die this hour for his death, than live an hundred years and take away the life of my brother." No person seemed to be sorry for this unexpected piece of justice on the inhuman major, and the man being ordered into custody, many gentleman present, who had been witnesses of the whole affair, joined to intreat the officers to defer the execution of the other brother till the queen's pleasure should be known.

This request being complied with, the city chamber

chamber that very night drew up a very feeling and pathetic address to her majesty, setting forth the unparalleled cruelty and character of the deceased officer, and humbly intreating her majesty's pardon for both the brothers.

The petition was granted, the brothers were pardoned and discharged from their service in the army, and the queen received from the city a most grateful address of thanks for her well-timed mercy.

INDOLENCE Characterized.

[By Fenelon, Archbishop of Cambray, and Author of *Telemachus*.]

INDOLENCE deprives men of all that activity which should call forth their virtues, and make them illustrious. An indolent man is scarce a man; he is half a woman. He wills, and unwill, in a breath. He may have good intentions of discharging a duty, while that duty is at a distance: let it but approach, let him view the time of action near, and down drop his hands in languor. What can be done with such a man? He is absolutely good for nothing. Business tires him, reading fatigues him; the service of his country interferes too much with his pleasures, and even attendance at court, though for the time of advancement, is too great a constraint upon him. His life should be passed on a bed of down. If he is employed, moments are as hours to him; if he is amused, hours are as moments. In general, his whole time eludes him; he lets it glide unheeded, like water under a bridge. Ask him what he has done with his morning? he knows nothing about it, for he has lived without
one

one reflection upon his existence. He slept as long as it was possible for him to sleep; dressed slowly; amused himself in chat with the first person that called upon him; and took several turns in his room till dinner. Dinner is served up; and the evening will be spent as unprofitably as the morning, and his whole life as this day. Once more, such a wretch is good for nothing. It is only pride that can support him in a life so worthless, and so much beneath the character of a man.

A ROBBERY strangely Discovered.

A Young gentleman from the university, on paying a visit to a young lady, a relation of his in the country, found her in great affliction for the loss of a diamond ring of considerable value. She was positive that some of the servants must have got it, but which to lay it to she did not know. The young gentleman, on hearing the circumstances, undertook the recovery of it, provided the lady would humour the stratagem he proposed to make use of. She readily consented. At dinner, therefore, the discourse turning upon the loss, the scholar boasted so much of his skill in the black art, that she, as they had previously agreed, desired him to exert it for the discovery of the person who had stolen her ring. He promised her he would; and after dinner ordered a white cock to be got (no other would do) and a kettle to be placed on a table in the hall. The cock he told them was to be put under the kettle; and all the servants, one after another, were to touch it; and that as soon as the guilty person should lay his hand upon it, the cock should crow three times. Every thing being thus prepared with the greatest solemnity, the young gentle-

gentleman began the scene. The hall was darkened, and the procession began. As soon as they had every one declared that they had fulfilled the direction and touched the cock, the light was restored, and the gentleman examined every one of their hands, and found them all smutted, except one who had taken care not to touch the kettle, and was beginning to hug himself for having outwitted the conjurer. Upon this circumstance the gentleman charged him closely with the theft; he could not deny it, and on his knees asked pardon; which the lady, on his restoring the ring, granted him.

THE RIVAL WIVES.

A Nobleman of one of the best families in this kingdom was blessed in marriage with a lady, who by the benevolence of a kind providence, was the repository of all the qualities of body and mind, that are desirable by one that would find friendship and felicity in a wife; but it so happened, that in respect to her, affection and good manners were wanting in his lordship; but she, by an happy education, being mistress of her duty towards God, never, not under the severest usage, slackened that obedience which she had religiously contracted to pay to her lord.

In process of time a separation was suggested to his lordship, who took a speedy occasion of signifying this to his lady, who at first hearing ceased to be mistress of herself; but a little recollection restored her the life again, which this severity had taken from her; and after some tears had lessened the weight that was upon her spirits, she threw herself at the feet of her lord, and said, " I deserve
" a discipline from heaven, and it may be the will

" of

“ of God that I should undergo this punishment;
 “ but it does not appear to me that I have deserved
 “ it at the hands of your lordship; but since I can-
 “ not doubt of its being your desire, to which it
 “ has been the study of my life to pay an exact con-
 “ formity; to this the most unwelcome reproof that
 “ ever did attend me, my compliance is ready; and,
 “ in respect to time, your lordship shall be
 “ observed.”

Separation succeeded, and my lord allowed her in proportion to her quality, for a time; but at length he shortened that, commanded her to retire from her acquaintance, and to renounce her quality, that it might not be known in her new neighbourhood who she was; the poor lady, who had read many hard lessons in the school of obedience, resigned without complaint to the will of her tyrant; but my lord, by clipping her allowance in a gradual way, deprived her of the convenience of a servant, and in a short time a report of her being dead circulated through the town.

When common fame had killed her, my lord mourned for her in form, and with decency; but assured her at the same time by the hand that conveyed her quarterage, that he would totally restrain, even that, if ever she offered to rise against this report: obedience she very well understood and observed, so that no doubt was made of her death.

In some time after a gentleman gave my lord an invitation to a supper: an accident led him through the kitchen, where he saw a lass that immediately struck his fancy: his passions rose and brought him back to her, and a salute was attempted; which she resisted with so much good manners as gained upon him to a degree that kindled a desire of making her his wife, and he immediately proposed it to her; to which she said, “ My lord, the vast disproportion
 “ that

“ that is betwixt me and your lordship, with the
 “ stain that must accrue to you, renders it almost
 “ impossible for me to believe it your intention;
 “ and I trust that the goodness of God will screen
 “ me from the sin and disgrace of an immodest
 “ action.” The good sense, the simplicity and
 candour of the woman strengthened his propensity,
 and he ardently replied, that he intended nothing
 worse to her than marriage, which if she consented
 should be consummated within a week.

The ceremony passed in a few days, and her deportment, graced with piety and profound humility, attracted the esteem even of those that knew her not; and the report of the former lady’s being dead never met with contradiction; so that this was every where received for the real lady; and was visited and respected by all the ladies of quality.

After this marriage my lord totally neglected his former lady, who for a time had no food but what came from credit that was given her by a generous and compassionate tradesman.

The neglect of my lord continued, the debt swelled to the sum of ten pounds, and my lord’s care being wanted in the payment of it, the good lady went to the creditor, and said, “ Sir, I
 “ am largely indebted to you, and my next care
 “ is, how to discharge my obligation; mine is not
 “ a common case, and under a full assurance of
 “ secrecy on your part, it is that I tell you, that I
 “ am the wife of a nobleman, who cohabits with
 “ another woman, and, by neglect, has reduced me
 “ to the last extremity of want; but my greatest
 “ concern is for you, and your advice is required
 “ in the case.”

“ Madam,” said he, “ permit me to arrest you, and
 “ suffer yourself to be ill-used by the officers under
 “ the

“ the window of your lord ; but assure yourself
 “ that it should be my choice to lose my debt,
 “ rather than you should have ill treatment ;
 “ and this should not be my advice, had I not a
 “ view in it of doing some service to your lady-
 “ ship.”

The good lady consented : the officers seized her : and as they were leading her over Lincoln's-inn-Fields, against my lord's lodgings, the poor lady refused to go any further ; upon which the officers, in their merciless way, began to drag her, tore her clothes, pulled her hair about her shoulders : the people gathered ; a great noise ensuing, the reputed lady heard it, and ran immediately to the window of the dining-room, out of which she saw this afflicted object : she ordered her woman down stairs, to enquire into the meaning of that disorder ; who returned with this answer, that it was a poor gentlewoman under an arrest for ten pounds, and the officers were leading her to prison. “ O stop them,” said the lady, “ I'll pay the debt : bid one of the officers come up.” When the officer came up, “ Why are you so cruel,” said she, “ to a poor gentlewoman ?” “ She is our prisoner,” said he, “ and because the debt is not paid, the plaintiff has ordered her to the Marshalsea ; she refuses to go, and we are obliged to use violence, for it is our duty to carry her over.” “ Here is your debt and charges,” said the lady, “ and let your prisoner come to me.”

When the officers were discharged, she turned to the distressed lady, and said, “ Madam, you have the look and manners of a gentlewoman, which aggravates my concern for your deplorable condition. Pray tell me who you are, and how I may convey to you such relief as you may need in time to come.” “ Madam,” said the poor lady, “ your
 “ charity

“charity will be very welcome to me, but I should
 “be glad if your ladyship would decline the know-
 “ledge of my person.” “No, madam,” said she, “I
 “must know who you are, I would relieve you ac-
 “cording to your quality.” “Madam,” said the
 poor lady, “it seems a very hard fate that a person of
 “your virtue and liberality should undergo the
 “affliction that I am afraid will be given you by the ac-
 “count which you require.” “Why, madam,” said
 the reputed lady, “should it give any other concern
 “than that which is a debt from me to every object?”
 “Madam,” said the poor lady, “it too nearly
 “concerns yourself.” “Nay then,” said the other, “I
 “demand it as my right.” “If you will know,” said
 the good lady, “I am to tell you that I am the
 “lady C——n; and have a right in your lord
 “before you, which I am persuaded you are igno-
 “rant of; and if my lord had continued to me
 “but the bare conveniences of life, his character
 “should have not been darkened by my com-
 “plaints; for I know that any resentment on my
 “part would not prevent the sin in my lord, and
 “on your part there is no guilt contracted, for
 “the report of my death is your justification in
 “all that is past; and the will of my lord being
 “the rule of that part of my conduct, which relates
 “to him, I was determined to a compliance till
 “absolute necessity should force my intention.”

“Madam,” said the reputed lady, “I will know
 “the truth of this matter before I sleep; and do assure
 “you, that if it shall appear to me as you say, I
 “shall not only renounce the bed of my lord, but
 “do the best offices I can for your reconciliation.
 “I expect my lord every moment, and it may
 “not be well for you to be here at his coming in;
 “but let me know where you are, that the good
 “offices I intend you may not be lost; and it is
 “my

“ my request that you would accept of this purse,
 “ as you will find immediate sustenance from the
 “ contents of it.”

The poor lady withdrew, and my lord came home in a very little time, who finding the reputed lady in great affliction, asked the meaning of that disorder: “ My lord,” said she, “ a strange accident has brought a thing to my knowledge, upon which I am to ask you a question, and must conjure you to answer me, as you will answer it at the tribunal. Is your first lady living?” After some pause, said he, “ What have you heard of her, Madam?” “ My lord,” said she, “ it is not an hour since I paid a debt to rescue her from the sheriff’s officers, who had torn her clothes and used the greatest rudeness, because she refused to go to prison; and from her own mouth I extorted an acknowledgment of her quality and present condition; but it came from her with a regret that seemed to regard the quiet and credit of your lordship. So that from this day I must forbear your bed; but shall never be wanting in the best services I can contribute, and shall have no enjoyment till you cohabit with your lady, in comfort.”

She renounced his bed, and prevailed with him to receive his lady; and by her good offices, their peace was preserved till the death of my lady. After which, my lord proposed marriage to her again, and she then became his lawful wife.

My lord settled 400l. a year upon her, which was the most his estate could then bear; out of which, in honour to the family, she gave 300l. to a suffering branch of it, and retired to a cheap country, that the 100l. which remained to her, might carry her with decency to the grave; and a few years after she ended a life that edified all that had the blessing of her acquaintance.

THE VISION of MIRZA.

ON the fifth day of the moon, which, according to the custom of my forefathers, I always keep holy, after having washed myself, and offered up my morning devotions, I ascended the high hills of Bagdat, in order to pass the rest of the day in meditation and prayer. As I was here airing myself on the tops of the mountains, I fell into a profound contemplation on the vanity of human life; and passing from one thought to another, "Surely," said I, "man is but a shadow, and life a dream." Whilst I was thus musing, I cast my eyes towards the summit of a rock that was not far from me, where I discovered one in the habit of a shepherd, with a little musical instrument in his hand. As I looked upon him he applied it to his lips, and began to play upon it. The sound of it was exceeding sweet, and wrought into a variety of tunes that were inexpressibly melodious, and altogether different from any thing I had ever heard: they put me in mind of those heavenly airs that are played to the departed souls of good men upon their first arrival in Paradise, to wear out the impressions of the last agonies, and qualify them for the pleasures of that happy place. My heart melted away in secret raptures.

I had been often told that the rock before me was the haunt of a genius; and that several had been entertained with the music, who had passed by it, but never heard that the musician had before made himself visible. When he had raised my thoughts by those transporting airs which he played, to taste the pleasures of his conversation, as I looked upon him like one astonished, he beckoned to me, and by the waving of his hand directed me to approach the place where he sat. I drew near with that reverence
which

which is due to a superior nature; and as my heart was entirely subdued by the captivating strains I had heard, I fell down at his feet and wept. The genius smiled upon me with a look of compassion and affability that familiarised him to my imagination, and at once dispelled all the fears and apprehensions with which I approached him. He lifted me from the ground, and taking me by the hand, "Mirza," said he "I have heard thee in thy soliloquies; follow me."

He then led me to the highest pinnacle of the rock, and placing me on the top of it, "Cast thy eyes eastward," said he, "and tell me what thou seest." "I see," said I, "a huge valley, and a prodigious tide of water rolling through it." "The valley that thou seest," said he, "is the vale of misery, and the tide of water that thou seest, is part of the great tide of eternity." "What is the reason," said I, "that the tide I see rises out of a thick mist at the one end, and again loses itself in a thick mist at the other?" "What thou seest," said he, "is that portion of eternity which is called time, measured out by the sun, and reaching from the beginning of the world to its consummation. Examine now," said he, "this sea that is bounded with darkness at both ends, and tell me what thou discoverest in it." "I see a bridge," said I, "standing in the midst of the tide." "The bridge thou seest," said he, "is human life; consider it attentively." Upon a more leisure survey of it, I found that it consisted of three-score and ten entire arches, with several broken arches, which, added to those that were entire, made up the number about an hundred. As I was counting the arches, the genius told me that this bridge consisted at first of a thousand arches; but that a great flood swept away the rest, and left the bridge in the ruinous condition I now beheld it: "But tell me further," said he, "what thou discoverest on it." "I see multitudes of

people passing over it," said I, "and a black cloud hanging on each end of it." As I looked more attentively, I saw several of the passengers dropping through the bridge, into the great tide that flowed underneath it; and upon further examination, perceived there were innumerable trap-doors that lay concealed in the bridge, which the passengers no sooner trod upon, but they fell through them into the tide and immediately disappeared. These hidden pit-falls were set very thick at the entrance of the bridge, so that throngs of people no sooner broke through the cloud, but many of them fell into them. They grew thinner towards the middle, but multiplied and lay closer together towards the end of the arches that were entire.

There were indeed some persons, but their number was very small, that continued a kind of hobbling march on the broken arches, but fell through one after another, being quite tired and spent with so long a walk.

I passed some time in the contemplation of this wonderful structure, and the great variety of objects which it presented. My heart was filled with a deep melancholy to see several dropping unexpectedly in the midst of mirth and jollity, and catching at every thing that stood by them to save themselves. Some were looking up towards the heavens in a thoughtful posture, and in the midst of a speculation stumbled and fell out of sight. Multitudes were very busy in the pursuit of bubbles that glittered in their eyes and danced before them; but often when they thought themselves within the reach of them, their footing failed, and down they sunk. In this confusion of objects, I observed some with scimitars in their hands, and others with urinals, who ran to and fro from the bridge, thrusting several persons on

trap-

trap-doors which did not seem to lie in their way, and which they might have escaped had they not been thus forced upon them.

The genius seeing me indulge myself in this melancholy prospect, told me I had dwelt long enough upon it: "Take thine eyes off the bridge," said he, "and tell me if thou seest any thing thou dost not comprehend." Upon looking up, "What mean," said I, "those great flights of birds that are perpetually hovering about the bridge, and settling upon it from time to time? I see vultures, harpies, ravens, cormorants, and among many other feathered creatures several little winged boys, that perch in great numbers upon the middle arches." "These," said the genius, "are envy, avarice, superstition, despair, love, with the like cares and passions that infect human life."

I here fetched a deep sigh; "Alas," said I, "man was surely made in vain! how is he given away to misery and mortality! tortured in life, and swallowed up in death!" The genius being moved with compassion towards me, bid me quit so uncomfortable a prospect. "Look no more," said he, "on man in the first stage of his existence, in his setting out for eternity; but cast thine eye on that thick mist into which the tide bears the several generations of mortals that fall into it." I directed my sight as I was ordered, and (whether or no the good genius strengthened it with any supernatural force, or dissipated part of the mist that was before too thick for the eye to penetrate) I saw the valley opening at the farther end, and spreading forth into an immense ocean, that had a huge rock of adamant running through the midst of it, and dividing it into two equal parts. The clouds still rested on one half of it, insomuch that I could discover nothing in it; but the other appeared to me a vast ocean planted with innumerable islands,

that were covered with fruits and flowers, and interwoven with a thousand little shining seas that run among them. I could see persons dressed in glorious habits with garlands upon their heads, passing among the trees, laying down by the sides of fountains, or resting on beds of flowers; and could hear a confused harmony of singing birds, falling waters, human voices, and musical instruments. Gladness grew in me upon the discovery of so delightful a scene. I wished for the wings of an eagle, that I might fly away to those happy seats; but the genius told me there was no passage to them, except thro' the gates of death that I saw opening every moment upon the bridge. "The islands," says he, "that lie so fresh and green before thee, and with which the whole face of the ocean appears spotted as far as thou canst see, are more in number than the sand on the sea shore; there are myriads of islands behind those which thou here discoverest, reaching further than thine eyes, or even thine imagination can extend itself. These are the mansions of good men after death, who, according to the degree and kinds of virtue in which they excelled, are distributed among these several islands, which abound with pleasures of different kinds and degrees, suitable to the relishes and perfections of those who are settled in them; every island is a paradise accommodated to its respective inhabitants. Are not these, O Mirzah, habitations worth contending for? does life appear miserable, that gives thee opportunities of earning such a reward? is death to be feared, that will convey thee to so happy an existence? think not man was made in vain, who has such an eternity reserved for him." I gazed with inexpressible pleasure on these happy islands. At length, said I, "shew me now, I beseech thee, the secrets that lie hid under those dark clouds, which cover the ocean on the other

other side of the rock of adamant. The genius making me no answer, I turned about to address myself to him a second time, but I found that he had left me; I then turned again to the vision which I had been so long contemplating; but instead of the rolling tide, the arched bridge, and the happy Islands, I saw nothing but the long hollow valley of Bagdat, with oxen, sheep and camels upon the sides of it.

THE BOUNTIFUL FROLIC.

SOON after the conclusion of a former peace, the late duke of Montague had observed that a middle aged man, in something like a military dress, of which the lace was much tarnished, and the cloth worn thread-bare, appeared at a certain hour in the Park, walking to and fro in the Mall, with a kind of mournful solemnity, or ruminating by himself on one of the benches, without taking any more notice of the gay crowd that was moving before him, than of so many emmets on an ant-hill, or atoms dancing in the sun.

This man the duke singled out as likely to be a fit object for a frolic. He began therefore by making some enquiry concerning him, and soon learnt that he was an unfortunate poor officer, who having laid out his whole stock in the purchase of a commission had behaved with great bravery in the war in hopes of preferment, but upon the conclusion of the peace, had been reduced to starve upon half pay. This the duke thought a favourable circumstance for his purpose, but he learnt, upon further enquiry, that the captain having a wife and several children, had been reduced to the necessity of sending them into Yorkshire, whither he constantly remitted one

moiety of his half pay, which would not subsist them nearer the metropolis; and reserved the other moiety to keep himself upon the spot, where alone he could hope to obtain a more advantageous situation. These particulars afforded a new scope for the duke's genius, and he immediately began his operations.

After some time, when every thing had been prepared, he watched an opportunity, when the captain was sitting alone on one of the benches in the Park, buried in speculation, to send his gentleman to him with his compliments, and an invitation to dinner the next day. The duke having placed himself at a convenient distance, saw his messenger approach without being perceived, and began to speak without being heard; and saw his intended guest start at length from his reverie, like a man frightened out of a dream, and gaze with a foolish look of wonder and perplexity at the person that accosted him, without seeming to comprehend what he said, or to believe his senses when he did. In short, he saw with the utmost satisfaction all that could be expected, in the looks, behaviour, and attitude of a man addressed in so abrupt and unaccountable a manner: and as the sport depended upon the man's sensibility, he discovered so much of that quality on striking the first stroke, that he promised himself success beyond his former hopes. He was told, however, that the captain returned thanks for the honour intended him, and would wait upon his grace at the time appointed. When he came, the duke received him with particular marks of civility, and taking him aside with an air of great secrecy and importance, told him that he had desired the favour of his company to dine chiefly upon the account of a lady who had long had a tender regard for him, and had expressed a particular desire to be in his company, which her situation had made it impossible for her to accomplish, without

out the assistance of a friend; that having learnt these particulars by accident, he had taken the liberty of bringing them together, and added, that he thought such an act of civility, whatever might be the opinion of the world, could be no impeachment of his honour. During this discourse the duke enjoyed the profound astonishment, and various changes of confusion that appeared in the captain's face, who, after he had a little recovered himself, began a speech, with great solemnity, in which the duke perceived he was labouring to insinuate, in the best manner he could, that he doubted whether he was not imposed upon, and whether he ought not to resent it; and therefore to put an end to his difficulties at once, the duke laid his hand upon his breast, and very devoutly swore, that he told him nothing that he did not believe upon good evidence to be true.

When word was brought that dinner was served, the captain entered the dining-room with great curiosity and wonder; but his wonder was unspeakably increased, when he saw at the table his own wife and children. The duke had begun his frolic by sending for them out of Yorkshire, and had as much, if not more, astonished the lady, than he had her husband, to whom he took care she should have no opportunity to send a letter.

It is much more easy to conceive than to describe a meeting so sudden, unexpected and extraordinary; it is sufficient to say that it afforded the duke the highest entertainment, who at length, with much difficulty, got his guests quietly seated at his table, and persuaded them to fall to without thinking either of yesterday or to-morrow. It happened that soon after dinner was over, word was brought to the duke, that his lawyer attended about some business, by his grace's order. The duke, willing to

have a short truce with the various enquiries of the captain about his family, ordered the lawyer to be introduced, who pulling out a deed that the duke was to sign, was directed to read it, with an apology to the company for an interruption. The lawyer accordingly began to read, when, to complete the adventure, and the confusion and astonishment of the poor captain and his wife, the deed appeared to be a settlement, which the duke had made upon them, of a genteel sufficiency for life. Having gravely heard the instrument read, without taking any notice of the emotion of his wife, he sealed it, and delivered it into the hands of the lawyer, and desired him to accept it without compunction. "For," says he, "I assure you, it is the last thing I would have done, if I had thought I could have employed my money or my time more to my satisfaction any other way."

THE HAUNTED HOUSE, or beautiful APPARITION.

A YOUNG gentleman, going down from London to the west of England to the house of a worthy gentleman, to whom he had the honour to be related; it happened that the gentleman's house at that time was full, by reason of a kinswoman's wedding that had lately been kept there; he therefore told the young gentleman, that he was very glad to see him and that he was very welcome to him; but, said he, I know not how I shall do for a lodging for you; for my cousin's marriage has not left a room free, but one, and that is haunted; you shall have a very good bed, and all other accommodations. Sir, replied the young gentleman, you will very much oblige me, in letting me be there, for I have often

often coveted to be in a place that was haunted. The gentleman, very glad that his servant was so well pleased with his accommodation, ordered the chamber to be got ready, and a good fire to be made in it, it being winter time. When bed-time came, the young gentleman was conducted up into his chamber, which, besides a good fire, was furnished with all suitable accommodations; and having recommended himself to the divine protection, he goes to bed, where having kept some time awake, and finding no disturbance, he fell asleep; out of which he was waked, about three o'clock in the morning, by the opening of the chamber door, and the coming in of something in the appearance of a young woman, having a night-dress on her head, and only her shift on; but he had no perfect view of her, for his candle was burnt out. And though there was a fire in the room, yet it gave not light enough to see her distinctly. But this unknown visitant going to the chimney, took the poker and stirred up the fire, by the flaming light whereof he could discern the appearance of a young gentlewoman more distinctly; but whether it was flesh or blood, or an airy phantom, he knew not. This lovely appearance having stood some time before the fire as if to warm her, at last walked two or three times about the room, and came to the bed-side, where having stood a little while, she took up the bed-cloaths and went into bed, pulling the bed-cloaths upon her again, and lay very quietly. The young gentleman was a little startled at this unknown bed-fellow, and upon her approach, lay on the further side of the bed, not knowing whether he had best rise or not. At last, lying very still, he perceived his bed-fellow to breathe, by which, guessing her to be flesh and blood, he drew nearer to her, and, taking her by the hand,

found it warm, and that it was no airy phantom, but substantial flesh and blood; and finding she had a ring on her finger, he took it off unperceived; the gentlewoman being all this while asleep, he let her lie without disturbing her, she flung off the bed-clothes again, and getting up, walked three or four times about the room, as she had done before; and then standing some time before the door, opened it, went out, and shut it after her. The young gentleman, perceiving by this in what manner the room was haunted, rose up, and locked the door on the inside, and then lay down again, and slept till morning; at which time the master of the house came to him to know how he did, and whether he had seen any thing, or not? He told him, there was an apparition appeared to him, but begged the favour of him that he would not urge him to say any thing further, till the whole family were all together. The gentleman complied with his request, telling him, as long as he was well, he was very well satisfied. The desire the whole family had to know the issue of this affair, made them dress with more expedition than usual; so that there was a general assembly of the gentlemen and ladies before eleven o'clock, not one of them being willing to appear in her dishabille. When they were all got together in the great hall, the young gentleman told them, that he had one favour to desire of the ladies before he could say any thing, and that was, to know whether any of them had lost a ring? The young gentlewoman from whose finger it was taken, having missed it all the morning, and not knowing how she lost it, was glad to hear of it again, and readily owned she wanted a ring, but whether lost or mislaid, she knew not. The young gentleman asked her if that was it, giving it into her hand, which she acknowledged to be hers, and thanking him, he turned

turned to the gentleman, the master of the house; "Now, Sir," said he, "I can assure you," taking the gentlewoman by the hand, "this is the lovely spirit by which your chamber is haunted." And thereupon repeated what is related. I want words to express the confusion the young gentlewoman seemed to be in at this relation, who declared herself perfectly ignorant of all that he had said; but believed it might be so, because of the ring, which she perfectly well remembered she had on when she went to bed, and knew not how she had lost it. This relation gave the whole company a great deal of diversion: for, after all, the father declared that since his daughter had already gone to bed to his kinsman, it should be his fault if he did not go to bed to his daughter, he being willing to bestow her upon him, and give her a good portion: this generous offer was so advantageous to the young gentleman, that he could by no means refuse it; and his late bed-fellow, hearing what her father had said, was easily prevailed upon to accept him for her husband.

MUTUAL FORGIVENESS.

ALADY of quality in Italy, being on her death bed, bethought herself of asking her husband pardon for a grievous offence; "But," said she, "you must not know what it is till you have sworn that you will forgive me." Her husband accepted the condition, upon which she confessed to him that she had wronged his bed. The husband in his turn, begged her to forgive him any injury he might have done her: the dying lady replied, that his goodness and generosity left her no right to refuse him any thing: "Then," said he, "my dear, I had discovered
"the

“ the trick you had play’d me, and have taken care
 “ to poison you for it.”

Two THIEVES oddly Discovered.

TWO young thieves, in the disguise of country girls knocked one night at the door of a farmer, who lived in a village composed of straggling houses, and was reputed rich. They begged the liberty of lying in his barn, pretending they were going to a distant village, but being benighted and fatigued could not proceed on their journey. The farmer, though he had but a maid-servant in the house, suspecting nothing from their dress, opened the door to them; and as the weather was cold and damp, charitably invited them to warm themselves at the fire. When they came in and sat down, something in their voice and manner gave him the first suspicion, but not daring to satisfy himself with his hands, he only stood on his guard, and bethought himself of the following stratagem to discover their sex. He took some nuts, and beginning to crack them, threw each of his guests a handful into their laps, when the motion they made let him know what they were; for the women, when any thing is thrown them in that manner, open their legs, but the men close theirs. The farmer pretending some business, went out and alarmed his neighbours, who soon entered the house well armed, and secured the rogues.

BENEVOLENCE urged from the Misery of
SOLITUDE. AN EASTERN STORY.

CARAZAN, the merchant of Bagdat, was eminent throughout all the East for his avarice and his wealth : his origin was obscure, as that of the spark which by the collision of steel and adamant is struck out of darkness ; and the patient labour of preserving diligence alone had made him rich. It was remembered, that when he was indigent he was thought to be generous ; and he was still acknowledged to be inexorably just. But whether, in his dealings with men, he discovered a perfidy which tempted him to put his trust in gold, or whether in proportion as he accumulated wealth, he discovered his own importance to increase, Carazan prized it more as he used it less : he gradually lost the inclination to do good, as he acquired the power ; and as the hand of time scattered snow upon his head, the freezing influence extended to his bosom.

But though the door of Carazan was never opened by hospitality, nor his hand by compassion, yet fear led him constantly to the mosque at the stated hours of prayer ; he performed all the rites of devotion with the most scrupulous punctuality, and had thrice paid his vows at the temple of the prophet. That devotion which arises from the love of God, and necessarily includes the love of man, as it connects gratitude with beneficence, and exalts that which was moral to divine, confers new dignity upon goodness, and is the object not only of affection but reverence. On the contrary, the devotion of the selfish, whether it be thought to avert the punishment which every one wishes to be inflicted, or to insure it by the complication of hypocrisy with guilt, never fails to excite indignation and abhorrence. Carazan, therefore, when he had locked his door, turning round with a look of circumspec-

tive suspicion, proceeded to the mosque, and was followed by every eye with silent malignity; the poor suspended their supplication when he passed by; and though he was known by every man, yet no man saluted him.

Such had long been the life of Carazan, and such was the character which he had acquired, when notice was given by proclamation, that he was removed to a magnificent building in the centre of the city, that his table should be spread for the public, and that the stranger should be welcome to his bed. The multitude soon rushed like a torrent to his door, where they beheld him distributing bread to the hungry, and apparel to the naked, his eye softened with compassion, and his cheek glowing with delight. Every one gazed with astonishment at the prodigy; and the murmur of innumerable voices increasing like the sound of approaching thunder, Carazan beckoned with his hand; attention suspended the tumult in a moment, and he thus gratified the curiosity which had procured him audience.

To Him who touches the mountains and they smoke; the Almighty, and the most Merciful, be everlasting honour! he has ordained sleep to be the minister of instruction, and his visions have reproved me in the night. As I was sitting alone in my haram, with my lamp burning before me, computing the product of my merchandise and exulting in the increase of my wealth, I fell into a deep sleep, and the hand of him who dwells in the third heaven was upon me. I beheld the angel of death coming forward like a whirlwind, and he smote me before I could deprecate the blow. At the same moment I felt myself lifted from the ground, and transported with astonishing rapidity through the regions of the air. The earth was contracted to an atom beneath; and the stars glowed round me with a lustre that

obscured the sun. The gate of paradise was now in sight; and I was intercepted by a sudden brightness which no human eye could behold: the irrevocable sentence was now to be pronounced; my day of probation was past; and from the evil of my life nothing could be taken away, nor could any thing be added to the good. When I reflected that my lot for eternity was cast, which not all the powers of nature could reverse, my confidence totally forsook me; and while I stood trembling and silent, covered with confusion and chilled with horror, I was thus addressed by the radiance that flamed before me.

“Carazan, thy worship has not been accepted,
 “because it was not prompted by the love of God;
 “neither can thy righteousness be rewarded, be-
 “cause it was not produced by love of man: for
 “thy own sake only, hast thou rendered to every
 “man his due; and thou hast approached the Al-
 “mighty only for thyself. Thou hast not looked
 “up with gratitude, nor round thee with kindness.
 “Around thee, thou hast, indeed, beheld vice and
 “folly; but if vice and folly could justify thy par-
 “simony, would they not condemn the bounty of
 “heaven? if not upon the foolish and the vicious,
 “where shall the sun diffuse its light, or the clouds
 “distill their dew? where shall the lips of the
 “spring breathe fragrance, or the hand of autumn
 “diffuse plenty? remember, Carazan, that thou
 “hast shut compassion from thine heart, and grasped
 “thy treasures with a hand of iron: thou hast lived
 “for thyself; and therefore, henceforth for ever
 “thou shalt subsist alone. From the light of hea-
 “ven, and from the society of all beings, shalt thou
 “be driven; solitude shall protract the lingering
 “hours of eternity, and darkness aggravate the hor-
 “rors of despair.” At the moment I was driven
 by

by some secret and irresistible power through the glowing system of creation, and passed innumerable worlds in a moment. As I approached the verge of nature, I perceived the shadows of total and boundless vacuity deepen before me; a dreadful region of eternal silence, solitude and darkness! unutterable horror seized me at the prospect, and this exclamation burst from me with all the vehemence of desire; "O! that I had been doomed for ever to the common receptacle of impenitence and guilt! there society would have alleviated the torment of despair, and the rage of fire could not have excluded the comfort of light. Or if I had been condemned to reside on a comet, that would return but once in a thousand years to the regions of light and life; the hope of these periods, however distant, would cheer me in the dreary interval of cold and darkness, and the vicissitude would divide eternity into time." While this thought passed over my mind, I lost sight of the remotest star, and the last glimmering of light was quenched in utter darkness. The agonies of despair every moment increased, as every moment augmented my distance from the last habitable world. I reflected with intolerable anguish, that when ten thousand thousand years had carried me beyond the reach of all but that power who fills infinitude, I should still look forward into an immense abyss of darkness, through which I should still drive without succour and without society, farther and farther still, for ever and ever. I then stretched out my hands towards the regions of existence, with an emotion that awakened me. Thus have I been taught to estimate society, like every other blessing, by its loss. My heart is warmed to liberality; and I am zealous to communicate the happiness which I feel, to those from whom it is derived; for the society of one wretch,

wretch, whom in the pride of prosperity I would have spurned from my door, would, in the dreadful solitude to which I was condemned, have been more highly prized, than the gold of Afric, or the gems of Golconda.

At this reflection upon his dream, Carazan became suddenly silent, and looked upward in an ecstasy of gratitude and devotion. The multitude were struck at once with the precept and example; and the Caliph, to whom the event was related, that he might be liberal beyond the power of gold, commanded it to be recorded for the benefit of posterity.

A W A G E R whimsically Won.

JEMMY Spiller, comedian, of facetious memory, going to Epsom during the time of the races, met a gentleman of his acquaintance who was returning to town, because there was not a bed to be had at Epsom at any price, nor even stabling for his horse. After the first compliments were over, the gentleman enquired to what place Mr. Spiller was bound; who answering, to Epsom; the gentleman told him, that the town was so full, that it would be utterly impossible to get lodging either for himself or his horse, on any terms whatever. "I'll lay you a bottle and bird," cries Spiller, "that I get lodging for both, be the town ever so full; and that too in one of the best inns in the place," "Done" says the gentleman: "I'll take your word about the matter, and the first time we meet in town we will make ourselves merry over the fruits of this night's adventure:" and thus they parted; the gentleman towards London, and Spiller for Epsom.—As soon as he came there, he rode directly into an inn-yard, and called for the hostler, who paying no regard to what he

he said, Mr. Spiller gets off from his horse, and leads him into a stable, which was already crowded with horses, so that none of them could lie down. Here Spiller found the hostler whom he addresses as follows; "Here, my friend take care of this horse, and, do you hear; let him be well rubbed down." "Sir," answered the hostler, "you see that the stable is already quite full, here is no room for him." "Well, well," cries Spiller, "do so, if you please, rub him down well, and give him some hay now, and about an hour hence give him some corn." "Sir," cries the hostler, "I tell you again, that there is no room, nor will I take charge of your horse." "Well, well," replies our merry comedian, "if you think that will be better for the horse, do so; — ay, ay, put a little bran among his corn, with all my heart." "I tell you again, cries the fellow, roaring as loud as possible in his ear, I'll take no charge of your horse; and if you don't take him away, I'll turn him out of the stable, and let him stray to the devil, if he will." "Why, ay," cries Spiller, "that's true enough, thou seemest to be a civil, good-natured, honest young fellow—and I'll leave it entirely to thy management, but be sure don't let him be changed." So leaving the horse in the fellow's care, he goes directly into the bar, and calls for a pint of red port; the mistress of the house said, she was sorry she had not a place to ask him to sit down; but he, not willing to understand her, cries out, "No matter, no matter, madam; 'tis all one to me,—if your red wine is not good, let me have a pint of white". By this time the hostler had informed his mistress what a deaf man she had to deal with, and they had agreed, as the likeliest means to get rid of him, to let him alone, and give him nothing that he called for, either to eat or drink. Mr. Spiller was now reduced to the necessity

cessity of shifting for a supper, as well as he could, wherefore he watched his opportunity of following some of the servants, whom he observed to carry several dishes of hot meat into a room, where about twenty gentlemen were going to supper together. As soon as he came into the room, he pulled off his hat, and hanging it upon a peg, he stood there as mute as a fish. At length one of the company observing that he was a stranger, demanded, "What does the gentleman want!" On this they all stared at him for some time, but nobody claiming any knowledge of him, one of them said to him, "Sir, we are a select company, do you want any body-pray?" No ceremony with me," replies Spiller: "I beg, gentlemen, that you will not disturb yourselves upon my account, I can sit any where." The servants now observing him, informed the company that he was so deaf that they would not be able to make him hear a single word, if they talked to him for a month. On which one of the company observed, that he looked like an inoffensive gentleman, and as he was deaf, he could take no exceptions to any thing that was said, and it was therefore better to let him stay. This proposal meeting general approbation, they all sat down to supper, after which, and about an hour devoted to drinking, Spiller got up, and with great ceremony thanked them all round for their good company, and threw down a shilling for his share. On which one of the company roared out, "Zounds, Sir! what do you mean by a shilling! why six shillings a-head, will hardly pay the reckoning." "Nay, nay, gentlemen," cries Spiller, "it does not signify making a multitude of words, for, upon my honour, I will be my shilling, if you were to talk till to-morrow; therefore, no apologies, gentlemen, I scorn to sponge upon any body." After some stir, they found it was but in vain to talk to him

him, so they were forced to be content with a shilling, or have nothing. Spiller now made the best of his way to the kitchen, and watching his opportunity, followed one of the chambermaids, whom he observed to go up stairs with a warming pan of coals. The girl had not seen him, till he came into the room as she was warming the bed, with a -- "What is this the room that I am to lie in, child?" "No, Sir," cries the girl, in the utmost surprize, "this bed is for two gentlemen, who are just coming into the room, and has been hired for them above this month." "Very well, my dear," says Spiller, "I like it extremely well; and I hope the sheets are thoroughly aired; but where's my night cap?" "At the devil," quoth the girl, "so. ought I know, and I wish you were there too---but hang your deaf head, I'll have your neck broke down stairs presently." So saying, away runs the girl, to inform her mistress and the two gentlemen what had befel her. "Madam," cries she, "there is that cursed dunny man that has plagued the whole house so, has followed me sily into the room where I was warming the bed for the two gentlemen, and I cannot for my life get him down again."

On this intelligence the mistress of the house, and the gentlemen, whose room Spiller had made free with, ran up stairs as fast as possible: but when they came to the door, they, to their great disappointment, found it both locked and bolted; besides which, our cautious traveller had drawn a large chest of drawers against it, placed a great wainscot table upon the drawers and several chairs upon the table. No remedy now remaind but to burst open the door; but this proved a task rather too difficult for them: so, after eight or ten fruitless blows against it, they stood to listen whether they could learn what he was about; and Spiller, guessing the cause of their sudden silence, began to talk to himself, (but loud enough

enough for them to hear him) as follows----“ These public inns are sometimes very dangerous places, and a man cannot be too secure in them. But though I have the misfortune to have lost my hearing, I think they cannot easily make their way through the strong door and all those heavy things which I have placed against it; or if they should, I am sure they can want nothing but to rob and murder me.” When they had heard this, the hostess gravely asked them what they thought of this affair? One of the gentlemen, being a practitioner of the law, replies,---“ Although he had no right to the room, yet, as this is a public inn, and he is in possession of the room, to break open the door upon him would be such an assault, as I should not care to be concerned in for an hundred pounds.” This speech of the lawyer’s determined the matter, and they left Spiller in quiet possession of his lodging.

In the morning, our hero being mounted on his horse, desired the lady to bring him a glass of brandy; which being complied with, he drank to her health, and thanked her for the good usage he had met with. During this short space, the lady having occasion to break wind, and not dreaming that he could be informed of the report, she stood not upon ceremony, but let fly with the voice of a cannon. At this salute, Spiller cries out, “ Well said, madam, by heaven ’twas a rouzer; I hope you are better, madam: —I think I never heard such a banging F——t in my life.” “ O curse ye,” cried the enraged hostess, “ is this you that was deaf all night, and can hear a F——t in the morning!” To which Mr. Spiller, turning his horse’s head about, only replied, “ None, madam, so deaf as those who will not hear.”

THE IMPOSTORS. A TALE.

[By Don MANUEL, Prince of SPAIN.]

VULGAR errors maintain their ground, because men have not spirit enough to detect them. It is common for us to praise or condemn against our own conviction; and to adopt idle opinions, lest we appear to have less taste and discernment than those who invent or propagate them. Imposture, however, has but its day, and perhaps it may be a long one; but it must give way at last, and truth will shine out with redoubled lustre.

Three sharpers, having found means to be introduced to a king, told him that they could weave a brocade of exquisite workmanship, and of so rare a property, that it would be invisible to any person who was either base-born, dishonoured by his wife, or had been guilty of any villainy. The king, desirous to possess so great a rarity, gave them a kind reception, and allotted them a palace to carry on the manufacture. He furnished them with money, gold, silver, silk, and all other materials. They fixed up their looms, and reported that they were employed all day upon the web. After some time, one of them waited upon the king, and acquainted him that the work was begun, and that the brocade would be the most beautiful in the world, as his majesty might be convinced, if he would condescend to come and see it alone. The king, to prove the reality of their pretensions, instead of going himself, sent his chamberlain, but without dropping any hint of the danger of an imposition. The chamberlain went; but when the weavers told him the property of the brocade, he had not courage enough to say that he did not see it, but told the king that

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the work went on, and that the piece would be of unparalleled beauty. The king sent another nobleman, who, from the same motive, made the same report. After that he sent many others, who all declared they had seen the piece. At length the king went himself, and upon his entrance, observed that all the weavers were diligently employed, and that their whole conversation turned upon the success of their work; one saying, "here is a noble foliage!" another, "what a grand design!" a third, "how beautiful is this colour!" But as he could see nothing all this time except the loom, and as he could not suspect the report which had been brought him by so many courtiers without any variation, he was struck to the heart, and began to doubt of the legitimacy of his own birth. However, he thought it most prudent to disguise his sentiments; and when he returned to court, he began to express himself highly pleased with the goodness and beauty of this master-piece of art. At the end of three days, he sent the steward of his household, who, that he might not lose his honour, praised the work even more extravagantly than the king had done. This redoubled the king's vexation; and he and all his courtiers remained in the utmost doubt and perplexity; no one daring to confess, that this famous piece was a non-entity to him. In this state the affair continued, till upon occasion of a great festival, some courtiers pressed his majesty to have a robe made of this silk in honour of the day. When the weavers came to the presence-chamber, and were acquainted with the king's purpose, they insisted that none could make up the brocade so well as themselves, pretended that they had brought it with them curiously wrapped up, and busied themselves as if they were unfolding it. They also took mea-

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fure of his majesty, handled their scissars, and practised all the motions of persons busy in cutting out. On the festival-day they returned, pretended they had brought the robe, made as if they were trying it on, and at length told his majesty that it fitted and adorned him beyond imagination. The king, credulous and confounded, walked down stairs, mounted his horse, and began the solemn cavalcade, in which he was to shew himself to his people; who having heard, that he who did not see the brocade must be a villain, a bastard, or cuckold, unanimously declared, that they saw it, and extolled the magnificence of it. At length a Moor, who belonged to the king's stables, could not help crying out, "The king is in his shirt, the king is naked." The ice was now broke. The next person to him said the same, and the confession of not seeing this imaginary brocade was soon made by every mouth; till at last the king himself, and all his courtiers, encouraged by the multitude, divested themselves of their fears, and ventured to own the deception. Upon this, orders were given to apprehend the sharpers; but they had very wisely taken care of themselves, and made off with the money, gold, silver, silk, and other valuable materials, with which the king had supplied them. Thus many erroneous opinions prevail in the world, from the dread of incurring the censure of singularity, though that singularity should be ever so reasonable.

THE REWARD OF AVARICE!

*Doom'd to the mines, an equal fate betides
The slave that digs it, and the slave that hides.*

POPE.

MONS. Foscue, one of the farmers general of the province of Languedoc in France, who had amassed a considerable wealth by grinding the faces of the poor within his province, and every other means however low, base, or cruel, by which he rendered himself universally hated, was one day ordered by the government to raise a considerable sum: upon which, as an excuse for not complying with the demand, he pleaded extreme poverty; but fearing lest some of the inhabitants of Languedoc should give information to the contrary, and his house should be searched, he resolved on hiding his treasure in such a manner, as to escape the most strict examination. For that purpose he dug a kind of cave in his wine cellar, which he made so large and deep, that he used to go down to it with a ladder; at the entrance was a door with a spring-lock on it, which on shutting would fasten of itself. All at once Mons. Foscue was missing; diligent search was made after him in every place; the ponds were drawn, and every method, which human imagination could suggest, was taken to find him, but all in vain.

In a short time after, his house was sold, and the purchaser beginning either to rebuild it, or make

Some alteration in it, the workman discovered a door in the cellar, with a key in the lock, which he ordered to be opened, and on going down they found Mons. Foscue lying dead on the ground, with a candlestick near him, but no candle in it, which he had eat ; and on searching farther, they found the vast wealth that he had amassed. It is supposed that when Mons. Foscue went into his cave, the door by some accident shut after him, and being out of the call of any person, he perished for want of food. He had knawed the flesh off both his arms, as is supposed for subsistence. Thus did this miser die in the midst of his treasure, to the scandal of himself, and to the prejudice of the state.

THE CIRCLE of HUMAN LIFE.

THE seven stages of man, from the first dawn of life, to the gates of death, are thus described by Gratian, under the influence of the seven planets.

Childhood is governed by the moon, and with her influences receives her perfections. Its light is faint and watery, without heat enough to produce distinct ideas. It is changeable too, and neither knows what agrees or what appeases it. Yielding like wax to all impressions, and mouldable as paste, it passes gradually from the darkness of total ignorance, to a twilight of apprehension.

From ten to twenty Mercury succeeds to the charge, inspiring that docility with which the boy takes

takes the learning that is given him, and too often that which he will wish to unlearn. He rises in the school, and fills his understanding with truth or falsehood, as chance determines the place of his education. At twenty Venus takes the sceptre and reigns with tyranny till thirty, making cruel war against the youth, breathing unto him her hottest fires, and feasting his imagination with ideas of gallantry and love.

At thirty the sun rises, and diffuses that light and heat which warms and irradiates the meridian man, and makes him pant for worth, fame, and distinction. He undertakes honourable employments with spirit, becomes solar orb to his family and country, and illuminates, ripens and perfects every thing.

At forty Mars owns him for his subject, infuses into him courage rightly tempered, and gives him command in the field. He is punctilious, mettlesome, haughty, fierce and boisterous: apt to quarrel, and ready to repel or revenge an injury.

At fifty Jupiter succeeds the lord of his ascendant, conferring state and sovereignty. Man is now master of his actions, he speaks, and acts with authority, does not take it well to be controuled by others, but aspires after universal dominion; takes his resolutions upon himself, and executes his own suggestions. In this stage reason and virtue are triumphant.

At sixty, the melancholy Saturn makes it night with man; his morning returns no more; but disease and fullness succeed. He sees his own end near, and he wishes that the world may end with him. He lives tired by, and tiring every body, peevish and snarling, like an old cur, gnawing the present and licking over the past. Languid and faltering in his speech, slow to undertake, and ineffectual in his endeavours, sordid and narrow in his expences, disgustful in his person, careless of his dress, des-

titute of sensibility, complaining at all hours and of all things. Thus he lives on till seventy, and may perhaps sometimes languish till eighty; but from thenceforward all is pain and misery, not life but living death.

After the expiration of the reign of Saturn, the Moon resumes her influence over his second childhood. Now returns the drivelling, tottering, helpless condition of infancy, with all the pains of decrepitude. His time is come round, like a wheel, to the same point; and, ending as he began, he may be figured by the serpent biting his tail; ingenious hieroglyphic of the circle described by human life.

THE A T H E I S T.

CAPTAIN Mac-Fitz had been every thing in his prime; he had killed his man, ruined his woman, broke his taylor, kicked waiters out of windows, and hummed the parson: he had been, what the world calls a fine gentleman—a free speaker; quite the thing as a toast-master, and one of the highest fellows, formerly, about the garden. All the women of spirit, both on and off the town, were fond of him: there was not one remarkable club, fit for a genius, and a man of fashion to be admitted into, but he was made a member of it.

But, alas! as the finest linen may, when grown old, and much worn, be made into tinder, so natural it is for bloods about town, when old, and worn out, with tinder-like constitutions, to twinkle to the last in the same rotten condition.

The captain had for some time past been a casual dependant on a publican, for board and lodging; but the poor gentleman, falling sick, was removed
out

out of the alehouse garret, and carried into an untenanted house, where a bedstead, flock bed, and two or three hospital blankets, were laid for him to die in.

It is common for chimney-sweepers to mark a house which is not inhabited, and steal up the first time they find the door open to get the foot away: the maid of the ale-house had, that morning very early, been to see how the captain was, because she had dreamed three times of him, that night, successively: coming down careless, she left the door ajar; this two chimney-sweep boys saw, and up stairs they darted into the room where the captain was, who, at the very instant, had taken up the chamber-pot, and was kneeling on the bed, but at their appearance, down he sunk, frightened, overset the urinal, and crept under the bed-clothes, in a very wet condition. The boys did not mind him, but went about their work up the chimney.

Doctor Space presently came up stairs to see the captain: they had been many years intimates; the doctor was a great materialist, and disprover of revealed religion; a philosopher, orator, and syllogism-maker to the Farthing-field society. Now, although the physician was a scholar; the captain, who was a fine gentleman, was no thinker at all, but took his friend's opinion, as he did his medicines, upon trust.

Space, walking up the room with all imaginable consequence, came to the bed-side; called out, Captain, Captain Mac-Fitz; the captain shoving up the bed-clothes, with his head, discovered under a dirty night-cap his lank cheeks, lengthened by the fright, like an optical picture, and large globules of sweat standing in the wrinkles of his forehead, like pebbles in a plough furrow,—looking ghastfully on his friend,—the doctor seating himself on the

bed-side, taking hold of his patient's hand, the following dialogue passed between them.

Doctor. My dear Captain Fitz, pray how do you do?

Captain. Do---do---Why, I am damned, that's all, and you are damned, and we are both damned, and there are two little devils gone up the chimney, waiting 'till the wind rises, to carry away our souls.

Doctor. Captain, your ideas are coagulated; your pia and dura mater act inconclusively; the sensorium of your pineal gland is obnubilated; the valves of your imagination being too much relaxed to retain contact, you have a lucid caput.

Captain. Capot: yes, yes, it is a capot, and a repique too; Lucifer will repique us, and we are damned, I tell you: can't you say one prayer for us both? do, try; perhaps that would drive the devils off for an hour or two---stay, I can say some of the Belief myself---"As it was in the beginning, is now"---but I can't go on with it.---Lord, Lord, what a rogue have I been! I must be a fine gentleman, indeed, and cut jokes upon heaven; just to make me howl for it. What will become of me?

If I could live my time over again, before I'd be a buck, or a blood, or a high fellow, I'd black shoes. How many fine women's reputation have I taken away wrongfully?---I shall be tossed upon the points of their pitch-forks, from one devil to another for that. How many people's pockets have I picked at picquet, and billiards---the imps will pick out my eyes for that: then I debauched my friend's wife, and told of it afterwards---they'll pull out my tongue with red-hot pincers for that.

Doctor. Captain, I intreat attention. Corporal sensibilities are extinguished upon a dissolution
of

of the material organs : therefore succinctly will I elucidate discriminately, that such phantoms are heterogeneous.

Captain, O Lord ! no more of your unintelligibleness ; you used to tell me there was no hell, and I was such a fool as to believe you ; for I was too fine a fellow to read myself. Now what signifies all your arguments, when there's two little devils come to confute them ?

Just at this instant, the boys had filled their sack, and dropt it down on the hearth :---the room was instantly filled with foot dust. The doctor was struck speechless : and the captain once more retreated between the bed-cloaths ; and creeping out at the feet, bending like a posture master, and got that way under the bed, praying all the while, as well as he could, that they would carry his friend away without him.

The two boys lugged the sack along the room, which the doctor observed ; and turning down the blankets, and not finding his friend in bed, firmly believed the devils were dragging him off ; and fearing that his turn would come next, opened the sash, crept out upon the penthouse, and slid off into the street ; but luckily for him, a baker's boy with an empty basket on his shoulder, going by, received him ; but the weight brought them all to the ground---the doctor crying out, for God's sake, help, help, there are two devils in that house flying away with my friend.

Away a crowd ran up stairs, just as the two boys had brought the sack out of the room to the landing-place ; but hearing people below, ran up a pair of stairs higher, and left the sack upright at the door. The mob, seeing something black stand upon the stair head, halted, and called a council. The captain who, by this time, had put his head and two

hands from underneath the bed, and looked like half an overgrown turtle, at the sound of the human voices, got out. His wet shirt was now dirt-dried, covered with woolly sweepings; his night-cap off, and hair all frizzled, he looked like a mad hottentot.

In that figure, barefoot, he padded to the room door—the mob below seeing him coming, called out the devil! and run down stairs. He tumbled over the sack, the foot came out after him, and all covered with dust, tramped out of doors, and ran over the way. It happened to be a barber's shop, who had just lathered a customer: confusion immediately took possession of the family—the man in the suds run one way, the barber another, the apprentice hid himself in the necessary-house, and the wife crept into the washing tub, while captain Fitz, availing himself of their affright, unperceived, crept up into the first floor, which was rented by a girl of the town, and she was drunk a bed. Into the bed, by her, in that miserable condition, the captain crept; but what the girl said when she awoke, we are entire strangers to; but this we are certain of; that he recovered of his illness, and during the remainder of his life, he behaved very penitently, and at last died a good christian.

The STEP-MOTHER, or Merit finally
Triumphant.

THERE lived in the county of Northampton, a gentleman of great fortune, who having an only son, put him to those studies which are agreeable to a person of his circumstances.

When the child had reached his eleventh year, he lost an indulgent mother, and before she had
been

been buried a month his father married a servant maid, with whom he was supposed to have been intimate during the life of his former spouse. This step-mother becoming pregnant, beheld William (for that was his name) with an eye of envy, being assured that while he continued in his father's favour, there were no hopes of her own child's inheriting the estate, though it should prove a male.

At length being delivered of a son, whom they called Robert, her jealousy became so violent that she took every opportunity of magnifying the little follies and foibles of William to his father, in order to prejudice him against him, and if possible, induce him to disinherit him. Nor were her endeavours ineffectual, for the dotard wrought on, by the fond dalliance of a young, buxom, and artful wife, concurred with her in treating his eldest son with every token of indifference, and many instances of cruelty; till the youth having attained to his sixteenth year, grew weary of such unworthy treatment, and resolved to trust his fortune to the wide world rather than suffer opprobrious wrongs in his father's house. He had amassed, during the life of his mother, a considerable number of little pieces in silver, which he found upon examination to amount to about eight pounds sterling, and having converted them into gold, for the convenience of carriage, set out with a small bundle from his father's residence, relying upon Providence for future support.

The first day's journey fatigued him so excessively, and galled his feet to such a degree, that he bargained with a waggoner to carry him to town, where he arrived at the usual time, and alighted at an inn in Aldersgate-street. Here he remained about a fortnight, till he was recommended to a coffee-house, the master of which hired him to do the most menial offices. By his industry and affa-

bility in this situation, he acquired not only the esteem of his master, but the general approbation of the company that frequented the house, insomuch that by their liberality, he trebled the stock with which he set out from the country. An incident soon after occurred that greatly tended to enhance his reputation. His master had a son about fourteen, a lad of a promising genius, who having a task to employ part of his time during the Christmas holidays, which puzzled him very much, William offered his assistance, and with great ease finished his theme. But such was his modesty, that he desired his little acquaintance with the classics might for the present be kept secret; however, his merit at length emerged from obscurity, an eminent merchant who used the house, concerned that a lad of such abilities should remain in so servile a situation, took him from that place, and put him in his own computing-house. Here he gained universal esteem, still concealing his name and family; but as he found that in the course of business he must take upon him some surname, he assumed that of Johnson.

When he had lived in this place about two years, he happened to have some business to transact for his master at a nobleman's house near St. James's-Square, where he was surprized to see one of his father's former servants. He would have concealed himself, but the honest servant who had revered the virtues of his youth, eagerly embraced him, and expressed the highest joy at the interview. William, charmed with his honesty, related to him all his adventures since his departure, and the poor servant encouraged him to hope for the possession of all his birth-right, as his brother Robert not only neglected his learning, but seemed to be devoted to every kind of wickedness that his years would

would admit of his practising. Nor was it long before he found the prediction of the servant verified, for his father soon after wrote to him to come down immediately into the country, assuring him that upon due reflection he was fully convinced of, and heartily concerned for his behaviour towards him, and that he was determined, by his future conduct amply to atone for the past.

When William acquainted his master with the necessity of his immediate departure, he at first indicated much surprize at so abrupt a resolution, so that he was obliged to produce the letter, the contents of which at once so astonished and pleased him, that clasping him in his arms, he exclaimed, " O worthy youth, hasten to thy birth-right and to that fortune to which thou wast born, though thou hast been exposed to such indignities. I long read thy mind in thy visage, and was persuaded that nature had not formed thee for base offices; hence I took thee into my family and determined to cherish thee as my own son, and in time to admit thee to a part of my business. But Providence has anticipated my designs, by removing the clouds which surrounded thee, and breaking in upon thee with the sunshine of fortune. Accept, therefore, my best wishes, and think of me, who pitied your adversity and admired your merit."

William made every possible acknowledgement of the kindness of his master, and after taking leave of the family set out for his father's house, where he was received with every demonstration of joy by all but his envious step-mother and her abandoned son: His father died soon after, so that he became sole possessor of a real estate to a great amount; his mother-in-law was punctually paid what was bequeathed her, but she soon squandered it away in luxury

luxury and extravagance; nevertheless, such was his generosity, that unmindful of her former behaviour, he settled a handsome annuity upon her, and gave her a decent little house upon his estate.

By his prudent advice and excellent example he so far reclaimed his brother, that though his capacity was shallow, he acquired sufficient knowledge to qualify him for the compting-house; so that he sent him to his old master, with whom, having served his time, he placed him a partner, and thus laid the foundation of his future prosperity.

He lived to a good old age universally beloved, and died universally lamented as a pattern of all the virtues that can adorn human nature.

The Adventures of an ENGLISH SAILOR at
CONSTANTINOPLE.

A Certain fond Mahometan, possessed with European dreams of love and beauty, would neither marry a wife, nor take a concubine, that mas not mistress of a tender nature; and, as he thought, accomplished in those bright perfections which, in spite of fate, would make him happy. The Turk was long an enemy to every thought that led him to scenes of matrimony; but he was caught at last. He possessed, of wives and concubines, no less than five and twenty; and so fondly doated on their amorous conversation, that he knew no pleasure equal to the enjoyment of their company; he would pass whole days in their apartment, and chuse some one among them every night, for his particular favourite,

However, whether nature had not qualified him for the woman's favourite, or whether every lady thought her turn too long in coming round, is not known;

known; but this is certain, that the whole society were extremely melancholy, and would pensively retire to a large window which looked out into a garden on the back side of their apartment, and by throwing up the lattice, let in air, which fanned, not cooled the warmth of their desires. Their lord was very covetous, and finding eunuchs somewhat chargeable, maintained but one, and that an old and lazy fellow, who would always go to bed before the ladies, and by that means give them favourable opportunities to open the above-named window and look into the garden, or divert themselves with any entertainment they thought fit to pass the night in.

'Twas late one evening, and the family secure in their repose, when a brisk English sailor, who having lost his company in coming from a little hovel where a Greek sold wine, had rambled up and down from street to street, till he arrived in a small narrow lane, one wall whereof belonged to the above named garden. He was walking hastily along, not knowing where he was, when he was startled at the sudden noise of women's voices: and desirous to know what sort of creatures the women were in Turkey, he was led by wine and curiosity to ascend a sort of a wooden scaffold, which he found there raised against the wall, and had been built in order to repair some breaches made by time.

The art of his profession had instructed him to climb, by which means he with ease got up so high, that hanging by his hands and feet, he overlooked the ridge of the wall, and could perceive, by the favour of the moon-shine, several ladies almost naked, and sporting wantonly together on the other side of the garden. He was wonderfully pleased to see a sight he had been so long a stranger to, and

not

not being able to express himself in Turkish, was resolved to shew his breeding in plain English, and called out aloud, "Ha! my dear rogues, have I caught you; egad I wish I was among you."

Nothing could be a greater surprize to the ladies, than to hear a voice, at once appearing to be a man's and a stranger to their language; but it was increased if possible, when they beheld a head, chin high, looking over the wall, with short thick hair, and a hat of the English fashion. The fright at first made them shriek, and drove them from the window for about five minutes; but perceiving none had overheard them in the house, they gathered courage, and returned again, believing Providence had sent a man to gratify their wishes.

The sailor had by this time got astride upon the wall, and was beginning an old ballad in that merry posture, not remembering he had changed his Wapping residence for a short continuance in a Turkish city. But the ladies gathered in a knot about the window, and by cautionary motions of their fingers, hushed him to silence, and began to beckon him with smiling looks, and all the tempting invitations of an amorous deportment.

Encouraged by their kind behaviour, the adventurous tar forsook his station, and leaping from the wall into the garden, expressed his satisfaction by all the aukward bows and cringes he was master of. He came at last and stood directly under them, explaining by the motions of his head and eyes, and other signs, that he was sorry such an excessive height prevented him from reaching them. They talked a while by signs and motions, till loth to loose so rare an opportunity, some of the ladies staid in wanton dalliance at the window, while others ran and tied together as many sheets as would reach to the ground; which having done and making fast one
end

end to some hooks in the chamber, they threw down the other end to him, and beckoned to him to make proper use of their inviting favours.

He was with them in a minute ; and they had begun to stare upon the strangeness of his habit, when he interrupted them by roughly kissing all the company. The Turkish husbands never kiss their women but in bed, and consequently this behaviour of our merry Briton wonderfully diverted them : they laughed exceedingly and gathered round him ; every one asked some particular question, but he could not understand one word they said, and finding more women than he expected, looked about him with great amazement, but began at last to catch them in his arms and embrace them with so much zeal and rapture, that it was hard to tell which party knew most pleasure.

The room wherein they lay was long and broad, with beds all laid in order along each side, and each desirous to offer him a part of her's ; they raised a sort of civil war among themselves, till it was resolved that all should draw a lot a piece, and stand to the decision. This they at last they agreed to, and with scissars cut a crimson ribband in twenty-five pieces, each a little longer than the other ; these they made the sailor hold, and drew their lots in order. She who had the longest was that very night to have him for a bed-fellow. Thus had they formed almost a month's work for the poor sailor, who never used to think on time to come, and therefore went contented to bed with his fair first-night mistress.

An hour before break of day, that lady who was to be next his partner, came and waked him, lest he should be found as soon as morning broke by the eunuch, who used to walk his rounds about that time ; and this they were to do by turns, to observe
for

for their security. They led him to a very high and spacious press, or rather wardrobe, where they used to hang their clothes : in this repository he was forced to stand or lie all day.

The master of the house would often come and pass some hours among his women, so that all day long the sailor was confined to keep his station, yet wanted little else but liberty, for he had more meat and drink than he required, which the good-humoured ladies ordered to be set aside, pretending they would eat it another time; and taking some opportunity, when all was safe, they carried it directly to their pounded amoroso.

They passed about ten days and nights without fear and danger of discovery, when an unlucky accident ruined all: it happened that the lady whose turn it was to claim the sailor for a bed-fellow, was taken by the Turk, to his own bed, so that the whose turn came next, was sooner than she expected mistress of her long hoped for happiness; but when the next turn came, the lady who the night before had lawfully possessed her husband's bed, renewed her title to the sailor's person, which she who next expected it denied with fervor, urging, that having lost her turn she should stay till the last of all before she could in justice lay a second claim to what she aimed at.

From words they proceeded to blows, till the eunuch hearing the noise, came running into the chamber to demand the cause of their disagreement, and the first person he took particular notice of was the jolly tar, who was got amongst the thickest of the fray, to interpose his best endeavours for appeasing their violence. The eunuch amazed to see a man among the ladies, came and caught him roughly by the shoulders; who was surprized to find himself discovered, and instantly struck the old eunuch such
a blow

a blow on the head, as beat him to the ground, and running to the window, leaped fearlessly down, and lighting on the soft yielding mould received no hurt; and making a shift to clamber up a gate which opened to a lane, after half an hour's rambling up and down, came out upon the port where lay an English vessel half unladen close upon the key. He got on board, and overjoyed at his escape, went next morning to the vessel he belonged to, which departed two days after on her voyage for England, and brought home jewels of a considerable value, which the ladies, whom he had favoured with a night's lodging, had each presented him with.

The cruel GOVERNOR punished.

A Governor in Sweden, being disgusted at a certain Swiss, commanded him to be yoked with oxen that drew burthens in a cart. But when neither by fair nor foul means they could force him to this vile condescension, he commanded his eyes to be put out; which was done accordingly. This was murmured at. But being the first essay of his cruel disposition, they winked at it.

A while after, the same governor commanded a woman, in her husband's absence, to prepare a hot bath for him. Which when the chaste matron refused to perform, till the husband came home, he struck her dead with an axe. This also, though heightening the choler of the Swiss, was passed by in mediation of future revenge.

At last he grew so foolishly proud and impetuous, that walking one day in the streets of the city, he struck his cane in the ground, and placed his turban or bonnet thereon; commanding all that passed by
to

to give honour to it: which when a certain honest Swiss refused to do, he commanded him to strike off an apple from his son's head with a shot from his cross-bow. The good father for a long time refused thus to hazard his son's life; but being overcome by the tyrant's importunate menaces, he rather ventured to trust to Providence the life of his son, than to sacrifice both that and his own to the implacable malice of a barbarian: so he shot, and hit the apple off without touching his son's head. The governor seeing this, and taking notice that he had brought two arrows with him, asked him the reason of it. To whom the Swiss answered; "If I had shot amiss and hurt my son with the first arrow, I was resolved to have pierced thy heart with the second." Upon this, all the people gave a shout, and running together, seized upon the governor, and tore him to pieces. Neither would they afterwards endure or admit any man into their cities, from the emperor, unless he came in the quality of an ambassador.

The old Proverb, Take a Wife down in her WEDDING-SHOES, exemplified in a pleasant Story.

A Gentleman in Lincolnshire had four daughters, three of which were early married very happily; but the fourth, though no way inferior to any of her sisters, either in person or accomplishments, had from her infancy, discovered so imperious a temper, (usually called a spirit) that it continually made great uneasiness in the family, became her known character in the neighbourhood, and deterred all her lovers from declaring themselves. However, in process of time, a gentleman of a plentiful fortune, and long acquaintance, having observed

served that quickness of spirit to be her only fault, made his addressee, and obtained her consent, in due form. The lawyers finished the writings (in which by the way, there was no pin-money) and they were married. After a decent time spent in the father's house, the bridegroom went to prepare his seat for her reception. During the whole course of his courtship, though a man of the most equal temper, he had artificially lamented to her, that he was the most passionate creature breathing. By this one intimation, he at once made her understand warmth of temper to be what he ought to pardon in her, as well as that he alarmed her against that constitution in himself. She at the same time, thought herself highly obliged by the composed behaviour which he maintained in her presence. Thus far he with great success soothed her from being guilty of violences, and still resolved to give her such a terrible apprehension of his fiery spirit, that she should never dream of giving way to her own. He returned on the day appointed for carrying her home: but instead of a coach and six horses, together with gay equipages suitable to the occasion, he appeared without a servant, mounted on a skeleton of a horse, (which his huntsman had the day before bought in to feast his dogs on the arrival of his new mistress) with a pillion fixed behind, and a case of pistols before him, attended only by a favourite hound. Thus equipped, he in a very obliging (but somewhat positive) manner, desired his lady to seat herself upon the cushion; which done, away they crawled. The road being obstructed by a gate, the dog was commanded to open it: the poor cur looked up and wagged his tail; but the master, to shew the impatience of his temper, drew a pistol and shot him dead. He had no sooner done it, but fell into a thousand apologies for his unhappy rashness, and begged as
many

many pardons for his excesses before one for whom he had so profound a respect. Soon after their horse stumbled, but with some difficulty recovered; however, the bridegroom took occasion to swear, if he frightened his wife so again, he would run him through; and, alas! the poor animal being now almost tired, made a second trip: immediately on which the careful husband alights, and with great ceremony, first takes off his lady, then the accoutrements, draws his sword, and saves the huntsman the trouble of killing him. Then, says he to his wife, "child, prithee take up the saddle;" which she readily did, and tugg'd it home, where they found all things in the greatest order, suitable to their fortune and the present occasion. Some time after, the father of the lady gave an entertainment to all his daughters and their husbands, where, when the wives were retired, and the gentlemen passing a toast about, our last married man took occasion to observe to the rest of his brethren, how much, to his great satisfaction, he found the world mistaken as to the temper of his lady, for that she was the most meek and humble woman breathing. The applause was received with a loud laugh; but as a trial which of them would appear the most master at home, he proposed they should all by turns send for their wives down to them. A servant was dispatched, and answer was made by one, "tell him I will come by "and by;" and another, "that she would come "when the cards were out of hand;" and so on. But no sooner was her husband's desire whispered in the ear of our last married lady, but the cards were clapped on the table, and down she comes with, "my dear, would you speak with me?" He received her in his arms, and after repeated caresses tells her the experiment, confesses his good nature,

and



and assures her, that since she could now command her temper, he would no longer disguise his own.

A Remarkable STORY of a MURDER.

A Farmer on his return from the market, at Southam, in the county of Warwick, was murdered. A man went the next morning to his house, and enquired of the mistress if her husband came home the evening before; she replied, no; and that she was under the utmost anxiety and terror on that account. "Your terror," added he, "cannot equal mine; for last night, as I lay in my bed quite awake the apparition of your husband appeared to me, shewed me several ghastly stabs in his body; told me he had been murdered by such a person, and his carcase thrown in such a marble pit." The alarm was given, the pit searched, the body found, and the wounds answered the description of them. The man whom the ghost had accused, was apprehended and committed on a violent suspicion of murder. His trial came on at Warwick, before the lord chief justice Raymond, when the jury would have convicted, as rashly as the justice of peace had committed him, had not the judge checked them. He addressed himself to them in words to this purpose: "I think, gentlemen, you seem inclined to lay more stress on the evidence of an apparition, than it will bear. I cannot say I give much credit to these kind of stories; but be that as it will, we have no right to follow our own private opinions here; we are now in a court of law, and must be determined according to it; and I know not of any law now in being which will admit of the testimony of an apparition; nor yet if it did, doth the ghost appear to give evidence.——Crier," said he,

he, "call the ghost," which was thrice done, but to no purpose, it appeared not. "Gentleman of the jury," continued the judge "the prisoner at the bar, "as you have heard by undeniable witnesses, is a man "of the most unblemished character, nor hath it "appeared in course of the examination, that there "was any manner of quarrel or grudge between "him and the party deceased. I do believe him to "be perfectly innocent; and as there is no evidence "against him either positive or circumstantial, he "must be acquitted. But from many circumstances "which have arose during the trial, I do strongly "suspect that the gentleman who saw the apparition, was himself the murderer; in which case "he might easily ascertain the pit, the stabs, &c. "without any supernatural assistance; and, on suspicion, I shall think myself justified in committing him to close custody, till the matter can "be further enquired into." This was immediately done, and a warrant granted for searching his house, when such strong proofs of guilt appeared against him that he confessed the murder, for which he was executed.

Story of the Grand Duke of TUSCANY.

COSMO de Medicis, Grand Duke of Tuscany, concerning whom, on account of his prodigious wealth, it was rumoured, that he had the art of transmutation. A noble Venetian, who, tho' he had but a small fortune, was extremely well recommended to his highness, (and by his polite behaviour, added daily to his credit in that court) one day fairly put the question, and asked the duke, if he had the philosopher's stone, or not? "My friend," said the duke, "I have; and because I have a regard for you

you, I will give you the receipt in few words. "I never bid another do that which I can do myself; I never put off till to-morrow what may be done to-day; nor do I think any matter so trivial as not to deserve notice." The Venetian thanked his serene highness for the secret; and by observing his rules, acquired a great estate.

The public-spirited COBLER.

THERE is a sort of enthusiasm in public spirit, which renders it politically prudent in corrupt statesmen to discourage it; and yet there is something so great and so divine in this enthusiasm, that statesmen of a better turn, though they dare not encourage, yet cannot but admire it. We have a shining and surprising example of this in the cobbler of Messina, which happened in the last century, and is at once a proof that public spirit is the growth of every degree.

This cobbler was an honest man, and, I was going to say, poor; but when I consider that he maintained his family, and was above dependence, I cannot prevail upon myself to make use of the expression. He was also a man of reflection; he saw the corruption, luxury, and oppression, the private frauds, the public robberies, the enormous violation of justice, under which his country laboured. He saw rapes unpunished, adulteries unproved, barbarous murders either screened by church sanctuaries, or atoned for by money; in a word, he saw universal degeneracy of manners, partly from the want of power in the government to chastise offenders. In this situation he resolved to undertake the arduous task of reforming these disorders, and thought it both lawful and expedient to assume the authority

of avenger of the innocent, and the terror of the guilty.

Full of this romantic resolution, he provided himself with a short gun, which he carried under his cloak; and equipped with a powder-pouch on one thigh, and a bag of balls on the other, he sallied out in the evenings, and as proper opportunities offered, he dispatched such as he knew to be incorrigible offenders to that tribunal, where he was sensible they could not elude justice; and then returned home full of that satisfaction, which is the sole reward of public spirit. As there were in Messina a great number of these over-grown criminals, the cobbler, in the space of a few weeks, did a great deal of execution. The sun never rose without discovering fresh marks of his justice; here lay an usurer, who had ruined hundreds, there an unjust magistrate, who had the curse of thousands; in one corner, a nobleman who had debauched his friend's wife; in another, a man of the same rank, who, through avarice and ambition, had prostituted his own; but as the bodies were always untouched, with all their ornaments about them, and very often with considerable sums in their pockets, it was visible they were not dispatched for the sake of money: and their numbers made it as evident that they did not fall victims to private revenge.

It is not in the power of words to describe the astonishment of the whole city; things came at last to such a pass, that not a rogue of any rank whatever durst walk the streets; complaints upon complaint was carried to the vice-roy; and magistrates, guards, spies, and every other engine of power, were employed to no manner of purpose. At last, when no less than fifty of these examples had been made, the vice-roy took a serious resolution of putting a stop to these mischiefs, by the only method that seemed

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seemed capable of reaching the evil; he caused public proclamation to be made, that he would give the sum of 2000 crowns to any person who should discover the author or authors of these murders, promising at the same time the like reward, with an absolute indemnity, to the person who had done them, if he would discover himself; and as a pledge of his sincerity, he went to the cathedral, and took the sacrament, that he would punctually perform every title of his proclamation.

The cobbler, having either satisfied his zeal of justice, or being now in a temper to secure his own safety, after having, in his own opinion, done so much service to the state, went directly to the palace and demanded an audience of the vice-roy, to whom, upon his declaring that he had something of great importance to communicate, he was admitted alone. He began with putting his excellency in mind of his oath, who assured him he meant to keep it religiously. The cobbler then proceeded to the following harangue: "I, Sir, have been alone that instrument of justice, who dispatched, in so short a time, so many criminals. In doing this, Sir, I have done no more than what was your duty to do. You, Sir, who, in reality, are guilty of all the offences which these wretches committed, deserved the same chastisement, and had met with it too, had I not respected the representative of my prince, who, I know, is accountable to God alone." He then entered into an exact detail of all the murders he had done, and the motives upon which he had proceeded. The vice-roy, who was thoroughly convinced that he told him no more than the truth, repeated his assurances of safety, and thanked him very affectionately for the tenderness he had shewn him, adding, after all, he was ready to pay him the 2000 crowns.

Our cöbler returned the vice-roy his compliments in his rough way; but told him, after what had passed, he believed it would be but prudent in him to make choice of some other city for his habitation, and that too in some corner of Italy not under the jurisdiction of his Catholic majesty. The vice-roy thought his reasons had weight, and, therefore, after thanking him in the most gracious terms for supplying that power which the government wanted, he ordered a tartane to transport him, his family, effects, and 2000 crowns, to one of the ports in the territory of Genoa; where this extraordinary person passed the remainder of his days in ease and quiet, and the city of Messina felt, for a long time after, the good effects of his enthusiastic zeal for the public good, and for the first execution of justice, without respect to persons.

This story, however strange, is exactly true, and, as Philip of Macedon kept a page, who to moderate his ambition, and to put him in mind of his duty, as a prince, was wont to awake him in the morning with this salutation, "Remember, Philip, that thou art a man;" so, I think, it would be happy for the ministers, who are either entrusted by their masters, or acquire to themselves a boundless authority, supported by boundless influence; if they would write in a table-book, and from thence refresh their memories frequently with this sentence, "What if the cöbler of Messina should revive?"

Friar PHILIP's GEESE.

(Dedicated to the Fair Sex.)

LADIES,

YOUR numberless charms would, in the imagination of a youthful solitary, have surpassed the beauties of the spring, and the cheerfulness of the morning! and had our youthful solitary seen them in his tender years, he would have preferred them to the dazzling splendor of the gold bespangled skies, and the lovely verdure of the fields! and indeed, he no sooner beheld your numberless charms, but he felt their force, your beauties excelled all other objects, and they immediately faded in his eye.

The sight of the most magnificent palaces no longer invited his curiosity, in a word, he discovered infinitely more lustre in your person, than in a jewel which adorns a crown. This youth had from his infancy inhabited the woods and groves, where the winged choristers were his companions, whose delightful harmony used sometimes to cheer his lonely hours; their innocent melody was his sole delight, notwithstanding he was wholly unacquainted with the meaning of their tuneful language.

To this rural school his father had brought him up from his infancy, immediately after the death of his mother; for the tender babe was no sooner born, than he removed him far from the sight of any human creature: and for many years he had not the least idea that there were any such in the world; and imagined that there were no other creatures than the tenants of the forest he dwelt in; such as birds, wolves and others, who enjoy only a sensitive life, and are not endowed with any of the rational faculties. The two motives which prevailed with

his father to shun all human converse, were first, his great abhorrence of mankind in general; and secondly, his fear.

And from the time his dear consort had left the world, and winged her way to heaven, he detested the society of his fellow-creatures. When grown old with the sighs he himself vented, with his continual moan, and the repining of all those he met with; the death of his better half made him both hate, as well as fear the rest of her sex; so that he resolved to turn hermit, and to bring up his son in the same way of life. Upon this, having distributed his wealth among the indigent, he sets out unaccompanied, except by his infant son, whom he carried in his arms; and striking down a lonely forest, he stops in the most solitary part of it. The name of this man, as history informs us, was Philip. Here our hermit studiously conceals a hundred particulars from the child; and that not from a severity and gloominess of temper, but from a motive of piety; and takes the utmost care not to let the least word drop from him, which might intimate that there were any such creatures in the world as women; or such things as desires or passions, particularly that of love.

In this solitude, he instructed his mind in things proportionable to his age.

Having attained his fifth year, he taught him the names of flowers and animals; and would now and then intermix with these discourses some account of the devil, whom he represented as an ill-shaped, hideous creature; and indeed the first lesson which children are generally taught, is fear. Being now ten years of age, things of a more deep and abstruse nature were brought upon the carpet, and he revealed to him some few particulars relating to the other world; but not a word about women. At

fifteen

fifteen he taught him every thing his mind was susceptible of; gave him an idea of the Creator of all things, but forbore to speak of the most lovely part of his works.

Now twenty, his father thought proper to take him with him to a neighbouring city, for the old man was very much oppressed with the infirmities of age, and scarce able to walk thither for the necessaries of life; upon which, considering that all the lad would inherit from him was a wallet and staff, he determined to shew him the way to the city; that he, after his death, might provide for himself. There were, indeed, but few people who did not give friar Philip a little loaf; so that had he been of a covetous disposition he might have heaped up considerable wealth. He was known to all the little children, who, upon his approach, used to cry out "Your alms, your alms, friar Philip's a-coming." Our good anchoret no sooner thought that the things he had instilled into his son were firmly rivetted in his mind, than he resolves to make a trial of fortune, and carry him to visit such good persons as were charitably disposed. However, tears gushed from his eyes when he considered the temptations to which the lad would be exposed. But our two hermits set out upon their journey, and arrived at the city, which was magnificent and finely built, and the place where the king kept his court.

Here he met with ten thousand objects unknown to him before; when our harmless youth, in the utmost amaze, cries out, "What do you call that thing there?" "A courtier," replies the father. "And those yonder?" "Palaces, my dear." "These here?" "Statues." He was gazing on these several objects, when some young and beautiful girl's skuddled along before him, and immediately drew all his attention: for now he no longer viewed the

palaces and other objects he had before admired, but he is seized with another kind of admiration; and all in rapture at this enchanting sight, he cries out, "Oh father! what's that so prettily dressed? how is it called?" The old man, who did not in the least relish this question, answers, "'Tis a bird called a goose, child." "Sweet, pretty bird!" cries the lad, in the utmost transport, prithee sing a little: let me hear some of thy music; could not I get a little acquainted with thee? Dear father, I entreat you, if you love me, to let us carry one of them into our forest."

Remarkable Instance of Female Credulity and Fortitude,

NOTHING can be more destructive to society, than the artifices used by base and designing men, to delude and seduce the weaker sex. No reparation can be made for lost virtue, which is not only attended with continual remorse, but too frequently succeeded by poverty, shame, and infamy. There is hardly a female breast dead to all sense of honour: though many seem to bid adieu to modesty, and decency of every kind; there are intervals in which the most abandoned repine, at least in private, at the loss of virtue, and the dreadful calamities consequent upon it. Nor are these delusive arts less pernicious to families, than individuals; since affectionate and well disposed relations cannot but lament most grievously the fate of those who are near and dear to them, if they unfortunately fall a prey to the most execrable of enticements, and thereby subject themselves and all concerned for their interest, to complicated woes. It has often been remarked, and with great propriety, that the most sensible

sible and ingenuous minds have been more forcibly impressed by suggestions of flattery and the wiles of deceit, than the vulgar and superficial; and the reason is very obvious, because the former, possessing a delicacy of sentiments, and elevation of soul, are induced to entertain favourable opinions of the solemn professions of others, from a consciousness of their own sincerity; while the latter, either totally unfeeling, or strangers to the noble emotions, are proof against the whole artillery of fraudulent gallantry.

But if we have many instances of female credulity, we have some of female fortitude, which has inspired the injured fair to resent the most atrocious crimes, in the extremest manner; no less than taking away the life of the offender. If the following narrative is attended to, it will convey a striking idea of both these instances, and furnish some useful and instructive remarks.

In Britany, a province of France, lived two young ladies, sisters, coheiresses of a competent fortune, equally esteemed for their perfections of body and mind, and their uncommon love for each other. An officer of a regiment quartered in the town, not more nobly born than they, but possessed of a fortune quite above their pretensions, courted the elder to the equal satisfaction of the younger, who hoped to see her sister thus splendidly provided for.

All his visits and addresses were upon honourable terms. In short, they appeared in all public places together, and were generally looked upon as husband and wife. The regiment, by an order from court, decamped to new quarters in the extremities of Languedoc. The officer soon after ordered his equipage to be got ready, in a private manner, and departed. This news being brought to the younger sister, she was doubly startled, at his not having

taken leave of them, and at his clandestine elopement. She flew to her sister's apartment, whom she found feeding her sickly thoughts with the dear image of her absent lover, and thus, as recovering from a sweet reverie, she spoke: "Sister, is't not strange he has not been with me these two days to consult about our marriage, before he departed for his regiment?" Her generous heart knew no deceit. "Ah, sister!" replied the younger, bursting into tears, "you are deceived. "Why these tears," cried the other, in amaze; "speak whatever thou knowest." "Then know," replied the younger, "that last night, your lover left the town without taking leave." The thunder-struck lady made no answer, but fainted away, and was scarce out of one fit but into another. At length, recovered by her distracted sister's care, she cried, "I'm ruined, I'm undone. In consequence of the most solemn, and sacred oaths, I yielded up my honour, and now carry the growing proof of my shame. His still putting off our marriage whenever I pressed him to it, joined to his midnight escape, shew my ruin but too plainly." Here grief broke in, and interrupted her discourse. Her sympathising sister equally felt the contagious sorrow. Sighs echoed sighs, and tears obscured the charms of each beauteous face. The younger sister comforted the forlorn, as well as circumstances would permit, and prevailed on her to consent to retire to their country-seat, for a few days, that nothing might transpire; observing that she had a scheme in her head to make the gentleman fulfil his engagements. It was agreed upon, and executed. The afflicted lady went to the country: the other sent a trusty servant to the post house, to hire a chaise and the best horse, at the same time bidding her waiting maid bring her travelling dress, and immediately prepare to go with her. Her orders
were

were punctually obeyed, and in the middle of the third day's most vigorous pursuit, she overtook him in a town where the regiment halted. Being informed where he was at dinner, and perhaps boasting of his late exploits; she ordered her servant to drive thither, and sent in for him. Being an officer, and a Frenchman, he was too polite to let a lady wait, but came running out from table to her post-chaise. He no sooner perceived the sister of her he had abandoned, but instead of being struck with any concern, a thorough good opinion of himself whispered him, that love had made her undertake the tedious pursuit, and therefore accosted her with an air of secure triumph and several compliments of gallantry, desiring her company to dinner. She got out of the chaise, —but as she got under the gateway of the inn, stooped him short by the sleeve, and said, "Sir, I am come all this way, and in this haste, to know if you'll do justice to my sister, which is to return with me immediately, and marry her." To which he cavalierly replied, "That if he had any instant thoughts of marriage, it should be for herself, and not for her sister;" at the same time offering his hand to lead her into the house. Enraged at the insulting answer, she assured him she would not go a step forward, nor let go her hold, until she had his last, his positive answer, on that head. "Why then," cried he, "Madam, that you may certainly found your hopes of having me to yourself, and be no longer jealous of an insipid sister; she is the last woman in the world I would think of marriage with." At this fatal declaration she with a pistol shot him through the head as he was proceeding with his protestation. Down he dropt at her feet a victim, sacrificed to the manes of her sister's honour. The people of the inn, and neighbourhood

bourhood, alarmed at the deed, flocked round her. She cheerfully surrendered herself to justice. An exact detail of the affair was sent to court, and by the returning post she received a pardon.

At her return she informed her disconsolate friend of what had passed, but received no answer from the statue of grief, save sighs, tears, and looks towards heaven; she refused all kind of nourishment, and died in a few days, through the double anguish of her lost reputation, and the hasty death of her still dearer destroyer. The generous sister, widowed by the afflicting loss, and rendered averse to the opposite sex by the execrable specimen she had punished, retired to a convent from the slanderous noise, and calumniating bustle of the world.

Though we applaud the tender concern of our heroine, for the fate of her injured and unfortunate sister, we cannot commend her harsh manner of resenting the wrongs she had suffered; since nothing can justify us in depriving a fellow-creature of life, but the immediate danger of our own; we would therefore recommend to our fair readers, whose interest and happiness we have most sincerely at heart, rather to guard against the cause of her rash conduct, than to imitate her example.

The BLUNDERER.

MANY a man has spoiled a good story by his manner of telling it, and many a one has said a good thing by accident, which gave pleasure to every one about him—yet, himself was totally ignorant of the wit which had thus involuntarily flown from him. Among this species of blunderers we may rank Mr. Bush, a young gentleman, who
being

being one day in the fields with his companions, they were suddenly caught in a violent shower of rain, and ran with what speed they could to the hedge for shelter—a young lady passing by at the instant, our hero cries out to her, “Whither so fast in all this rain, my dear? you had better come here and take shelter under a bush.” “Well said, Jack,” cried his companions, “egad that’s the smartest thing that ever came out of thy mouth.” Jack was mightily elated with the applause which was paid him, though in truth he knew not where the cream of the jest lay. The next day Mr. Bush being in company, the discourse happening to turn on the excellence of some capacities, and the readiness of their wit over others: “Faith,” cries our genius, “that’s true enough; for I was in the fields yesterday, with Tom Frankly, Dick Wildgoose, and some others, and the devil a smart thing did any one of them say, but myself; and one thing in particular, so clever, that they all swore they never heard a better.” “Indeed! What was it?” cries one of the company. “Why,” replies Bush, “you must know we were all caught in a violent shower, and while we stood under a great tree, a young lady ran by us; upon which I called out to her, Hold! hold! my dear, you had better stay here and take shelter under a hedge: and as I am a living man, they all swore, they never heard a better thing in their lives.”

A GENOESE STORY.

LUCHIN Vivalde, a wealthy Genoese, and a married man, cast his eyes, with an evil design, upon the virtue of the beautiful JaquINETTE, a poor young maid, and tried every means to seduce her to his embraces ; but she resisted, and was proof against all his attempts and devices ; she married an honest labouring man, by whom she had several children, and lived with him contented in her station. However, Luchin did not cease his intrigues : he feigned to be very friendly to the husband, and actually shewed him many civilities and favours, to corrupt the wife, and not without hopes of prevailing with him to yield to his request, and to force his wife to submit to his solicitations. Even this could work nothing upon the chaste and resolute JaquINETTE, whose immoveable resolution made him in some sort give up the pursuit of his adulterous design.

But, her husband being taken by the pirates, and the city of Genoa being oppressed with a great dearth, and five small children crying about the good woman for bread, without her capacity to provide for them, JaquINETTE, oppressed with extreme want and despair, having no human means to help herself and children, she, in a fit of frenzy, goes directly to Lochin's house, and, being introduced to him alone, gave herself up to his power, on condition of his providing for the distress of her family.

Luchin was ravished to see her, but was more amazed at her countenance than her words. She, prostrate at his feet, submitted herself wholly to his will, and only begged he would relieve her poor children,

children, dying with hunger. Luchin, agitated by contrary emotions, was at last conquered by reason, and directed by a good spirit: "Rise up, JaquINETTE," said he, "your offer is an act of necessity and distress, not voluntary, and of desire. I will take no advantage of your misery. I will now vanquish myself; I will preserve your honour, which I have, contrary to my duty, and the peace of your mind, so long fought to violate; and henceforth I will look upon you as my own sister, and relieve and assist you with a sincere affection." Then, taking her by the hand, led her to his wife; reported the whole affair unto her: and that good lady contributed all in her power to reward the virtue, and to relieve the family of poor JaquINETTE.

The HUMOROUS INTRUSION.

MR. Dyer, who was remarkable for facetiousness and drollery, happened one day to be alone at the Flask at Hampstead, in a venison time, when the Cordwainers-company kept their annual feast there. Dyer observed two glorious haunches roasting at the fire, and made it his business to learn who they were for. Being told, for the Cordwainers-company, he determined to dine with them. He knew it was the custom upon those occasions for every member to bring his friend, and consequently that several, as well as himself, would be strangers to all but one in the company; and that questions are never asked, when once admittance is obtained and people are seated; he therefore watched his opportunity when dinner went up, and seated himself among the rest as near as he could to one of the haunches, where he did not fail to play his part. He was very pleasant and cheerful, and those that sat
next

next him were highly diverted; no exceptions were taken, and all passed off as he had imagined. After dinner when the bottle and song began to move briskly round, he sung in his turn, and was much applauded. But when the time came that he thought of departing, he shifted his seat, and placing himself next the door, he began a story. He had already drawn the attention of the company upon him by his uncommon humour: so, upon the word story, all were silent. "Gentlemen," said he, "I am always pleased when I have an opportunity of remarking the flourishing condition of trade; I remember a wonderful alteration for the better in this very Company of yours within these forty years, and I think I can give you a remarkable instance of it. When I was a young fellow," continued Dyer, gravely; "I was but low in the world, myself; and I observed that the nearest way to wealth was through the road of frugality; and therefore I pitched upon a chop-house, in Grub-street, where I could dine for two-pence. The mistress of the house was remarkably neat and civil, particularly to those who were her constant customers; and the room where we dined was, by means of a curtain, or more properly a blanket hung upon a rod, partitioned off into two divisions, the inner and the outer; the inner division the good woman kept for the better sort of folks, of which I had the honour to be accounted one, and the outer was for the casual and ordinary sort. It happened one day, however, as I was drawing the blanket to go in as usual, the mistress of the house pulled me hastily by the coat, and whispered in my ear, 'You must not go in there to-day, Sir.' 'Why so?' said I, in some heat. 'I beg your pardon, Sir,' said the woman; but indeed you can't be admitted.' What the devil's the matter that I can't be admitted?' said I, swaggering. 'Why,' said the woman, with joy

joy in her countenance, ‘ the master and wardens of the Cordwainers-company do me the honour to dine with me to-day, and I must keep my best parlour empty for their worships reception!’ I thought it indeed but decent to give place to that worthy body, and so was pacified. The company upon hearing this story, began to lay their heads together, to know who this gentleman was, which Dyer observing, took that opportunity to slip away.

AVARICE MISTAKEN.

A Young fellow, whose person was very handsome, addressed a wealthy old widow, who after a little application consented to have him. Boasting of his success amongst his comrades, he spoke with the utmost contempt of the lady, and professed that it was not her that he designed to marry, but her money. She had notice of this declaration, and resolved to be even with her pretended lover. Accordingly on the wedding day, she dressed as gaily as if she were really going to be made a bride, and hung a purse of gold at her side, of which she made an extraordinary use on the occasion. She gave her hand to the deceiver with a seeming alacrity; and he led her to the ceremony with the appearance of sincere affection, while he was inwardly exulting with the hope of the rich prize that he was basely betraying into his possession. He went through his part, we may believe, without the least hesitation; but it was quite otherwise with his partner, for when she was desired to repeat her's after the minister, she continued some time silent, holding forth her purse only. The parson pressing her to speak, and demanding the reason of such an odd behaviour, she said, “ Sir, the scoundrel, who
“ stands

“ stands here with me, is an imposture, who comes
 “ not to espouse me, as he openly vowed, but my
 “ fortune. Here is its proxy,” pointing to the
 guineas at her girdle, “ and he may persuade it to
 “ contract with him, if he can; but I will by no
 “ means intrude myself into the place of that which
 “ is the beloved and real object of his pursuit. This
 “ villain, who hates my person, would make him-
 “ self master of my estate, and bring me to ruin :
 “ I hope therefore you will justify my conduct, in
 “ disappointing his vile intention, and exposing
 “ him to the shame he deserves.”

THE HAPPY REBUKE.

THE late reverend Basil Kennet, was once chaplain in a ship of war; and his place was to mess with his brother officers, he found they were so addicted to the impious and nonsensical vice of swearing, that he thought it not becoming his character to continue any longer among them, unless he could prevail upon them to leave it off; but conceiving at the same time that any grave remonstrance would have but little effect, he bethought himself of a stratagem which might answer his purpose. One of the company having entertained the rest with a story agreeable enough in itself, but so interrupted and perplexed with damme! blood and wounds! and such like shocking expletives, as made it extremely ridiculous. Mr. Kennet began a story himself, which he made very entertaining and instructive, but interlarded it with the words bottle, pot, and glass, at every sentence. The Gentleman who the most given to the silly vice, fell a laughing at Mr. Kennet, with a great air of contempt. “ Why,” said he, “ G—d d— you, doctor, as to your

your story it is well enough; but what the d—l have we to do with your d—d bottle, pot, and glass?" Mr. Kennet very calmly replied, "Sir, I find you can observe what is ridiculous in me, which you cannot discover in yourself; and therefore you ought not to be offended at my expletives in discourse, any more than your own."—"Oh, oh! d—me, parson, I smoke you; you shall not hear me swear another oath whilst I am in your company." Nor did he.

The Learned Country JUSTICE.

THE worshipful Simon Simple, Esq. one of his majesty's justices of the peace for the county of Kent, being one day at dinner with much other company, at the house of a neighbouring gentleman; after dinner, their kind host, imagining that they had not eaten heartily enough, demanded if any of the company would eat a slice of cold neat's tongue; but being answered in the negative by every person present, "Come, come," cries he, "perhaps you only say so, because it is not here; fetch the tongue, Thomas, and bring a slice of butter with it."—The Servant obeys, but coming into the room, his foot slipped, and the tongue falling from the dish, came rolling in before him. Whereupon the master of the house began to scold at Thomas for his carelessness. On which the Servant replies, "You know, Sir, it was only *lapsus lingue*, and therefore no error from the mind." This reply not only produced his pardon, but set the company in a roar of the loudest applause. Mr. Simple, before-mentioned, laughed as loud and as long as the best of them; though being quite ignorant that *lapsus lingue*, was Latin for a *slip of the tongue*, he could by no means guess where the cream of the jest lay. Determined,

terminated, however, that so excellent a piece of wit, as he conceived it to be, should not be thrown away upon him: he was no sooner come home, but he informed his lady what a fine joke he had heard, and that he was determined to play it off again as soon as possible. He therefore orders a shoulder of mutton to be roasted, and set by till it was cold; and inviting a number of gentlemen to dine with him on the following day, he employed all the intervening time in instructing his servant how to throw down the mutton, and make the Latin apology—which he conceived would produce excellent sport. His company came at the time appointed, and, having dined, our worshipful justice cries—“I am afraid, gentlemen, you have made but an indifferent dinner, will you eat a slice of cold mutton?”—Being answered in the negative, he says, “Come, come, I know you only say so, because it is not here; Robert fetch the mutton, and be sure you bring a slice of butter with it.” Robert obeys his orders, and blundering in at the door, let fall the mutton; on which the justice began to scold at him, and Robert (as before instructed) excuses himself by saying, “It was only *slapsum slingum*, and therefore no terror of the mind.” Which answer produced a most immoderate fit of laughter from the justice; who, wondering that the company did not join in his mirth, exclaims, “Zounds, gentlemen, why don’t you laugh; I am sure that Robert has made an excellent answer, and such a one every body thought it, the other day at ’squire Freeman’s; and to tell the truth, I had the shoulder of mutton roasted on purpose to show you the trick.”

The Tragical Story of a Gentleman that Shot
his BRIDE.

A Gentleman having courted, and won the heart of a most accomplished and agreeable young lady, obtained also the consent of her father, to whom she was an only child. The old man had a fancy that they should be married where he himself was, in a village in Westmoreland, and made them set out while he was laid up with the gout in London. The bridegroom took only his man, and the bride her maid-servant. They had the most agreeable journey imaginable to the place of marriage, from whence the bridegroom wrote the following letter to his wife's father :

“ Sir,
“ After a very pleasant journey hither, we are
“ preparing for the happy hour in which I am to
“ be your son. I assure you, the bride carries it, in
“ the eye of the vicar who married you, much beyond her mother; though, he says, your open
“ sleeves, pantaloons, and shoulder knots, made a
“ much better show than the finical dress I am in.
“ However, I am contented to be the second fine
“ man this village ever saw, and shall make it very
“ merry before night; because I shall write myself
“ from thence,

Your dutiful son, J. D.

“ The bride gives her duty, and is as handsome
“ as an angel—I am the happiest man living.”

The villagers were assembling about the church, and the happy couple took a walk in a private garden. The bridegroom's man knew his master would
leave

leave the place immediately after the wedding, and seeing him draw his pistols the night before, took this opportunity to go into his chamber and charge them. Upon their return from the garden, they went into his chamber, and after a little fond rallery on the subject of courtship, the lover took up a pistol, which he knew he had unloaded the night before, and presenting it to her, said, with the most graceful air, whilst she looked pleased with his agreeable flattery: "Now, madam, repent of all those cruelties you have been guilty of to me; consider, before you die, how often you have made a poor wretch freeze under your casement; you shall die, you tyrant, you shall die with all those instruments of death and destruction about you, with that enchanting smile, those killing ringlets of your hair."—"Give fire," said she, laughing. He did so, and shot her dead! Who can speak his condition? but he bore it so patiently, as to call up his man. The poor fellow enters, and his master lock'd the door upon him. "Will," said he, "did you charge these pistols?" he answered, "Yes," upon which, he shot him dead with that remaining. After this, amidst a thousand broken sobs, piercing groans, and distracted emotions, he writ the following letter to the father of his dead mistress.

"Sir,

"I, who two hours ago told you truly, that I was the happiest man alive, am now the most miserable. Your daughter is dead at my feet, killed by my hand, through a mistake of my man's charging my pistols, unknown to me. Him have I murdered for it: such is my wedding-day. I will immediately follow her to the grave: but before I throw myself upon my sword, I command my distraction so far as to explain my story
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“ to you. I fear my heart will not keep together
 “ till I have stabbed it. Poor, good old man, re-
 “ member, he that killed your daughter, died for it.
 “ In the article of death I give you my thanks, and
 “ pray for you, though I dare not for myself. If it
 “ be possible, do not curse me.”

Story of TRANQUILITY; or, An
 Old Maid's Apology.

IT is not very difficult to bear that condition to
 which we are not condemned by necessity, but
 induced by observation and choice; and therefore
 I, perhaps, have never yet felt all the malignity,
 with which a reproach, edged with the appellation
 old maid, swells in some of those hearts in which it
 is infixed. I was not condemned in my youth to
 solitude, either by necessity or want, nor passed the
 earlier part of Life without the flattery of courtship,
 and the joys of triumph. I have danced the round
 of gaiety, amidst the murmurs of envy and gratu-
 lations of applause; been attended from pleasure to
 pleasure by the great, the sprightly, and the vain,
 and seen my regard solicited by the obsequiousness
 of gallantry, the gaiety of wit, and the timidity of
 love. If, therefore, I am yet a stranger to the nuptial
 happiness, I suffer only the consequences of my re-
 solves, and can look back upon the succession of
 lovers, whose addresses I have rejected, without
 grief, and without malice.

When my name first began to be inscribed upon
 glasses, I was honoured with the amorous professions
 of the gay Venuſtulus; a gentleman who being the
 only son of a wealthy family, had been educated in
 the wantonness of expence, and softness of effeminacy.
 He was beautiful in his person and easy in his address,
 and,

and, therefore soon gained upon my eye at an age when it is very little over-ruled by the understanding. He had not any power in himself of pleasing or amusing, but supplied his want of conversation by treats and diversions; and his chief act of courtship was to fill the mind of his mistress with parties, rambles, music, and shows. We were often engaged in short excursions to gardens and seats, and I was for a while pleased with the care which Venustulus discovered, in securing me from any appearance of danger, or possibility of mischance. He never failed to recommend caution to his coachman, or to promise the waterman a reward if he landed us safe; and his great care was always to return by day-light for fear of robbers. This extraordinary solicitude was represented for a time as the effect of his tenderness for me; but fear is too strong for continual hypocrisy. I soon discovered that Venustulus had the cowardice as well as elegance of a female. His imagination was perpetually clouded with terrors, and he could scarcely refrain from screams and outcries at any accidental surprise. He durst not enter the room where a rat was heard behind the wainscot, nor cross a field where cattle were frisking in the sun-shine; the least breeze that waved upon the river was a storm, and every clamour in the street was a cry of fire. I have seen him lose his colour when my squirrel had broke his chain; and was forced to throw water in his face on the sudden entrance of a black cat. I was once obliged to drive away with my fan a beetle that kept him in distress, and chide off a dog that yelped at his heels, to whom he would gladly have given up me to facilitate his own escape. Women naturally expect defence and protection from a lover or a husband, and therefore you will not think me culpable in refusing a wretch, who
would

would have burdened life with unnecessary fears, and flown to me for that succour, which it was his duty to have given.

My next lover was Fungoso, the son of a stock-jobber, whose visits my friends, by the importunity of persuasion, prevailed upon me to allow. Fungoso was indeed no very suitable companion, for having been bred in a counting house he spoke a language unintelligible in any other place. He had no desire of any reputation but that of an acute prognosticator of the changes in the funds; nor had any means of raising merriment, but by telling how somebody was over-reached in a bargain by his father. He was, however, a youth of great sobriety and prudence, and frequently informed us how carefully he would improve my fortune. I was in no haste to conclude the match, but was so much awed by my parents that I durst not dismiss him, and might perhaps have been doomed for ever to the grossness of ignorance, and the jargon of usury, had not a fraud been discovered in the settlement, which set me free from the persecution of groveling pride and pecuniary impudence.

I was afterwards six months without any particular notice, but at last became the idol of the glittering Flosculus, who prescribed the mode of embroidery to all the fops of his time, and varied at pleasure the cock of every hat, and the sleeve of every coat, that appeared in fashionable assemblies. Flosculus made some impression upon my heart by such compliments as few ladies can hear without emotion: he commended my skill in dress, my judgment in suiting colours, and my art in disposing ornaments. But Flosculus was too much engaged by his own elegance, to be sufficiently attentive to the duties of a lover. He expected to be repaid part of his tribute, and staid away three days be-

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cause I neglected to take notice of a new coat. I soon found that Flosculus was rather a rival than an admirer, and that we should probably live in perpetual struggle of emulous finery, and spend our lives in stratagems to be first in the fashion.

I had soon after the honour, at a feast, of attracting the eyes of Dentatus, one of those human beings whose only happiness is to dine. Dentatus regaled me with foreign varieties, told me of measures that he had laid for procuring the best cook in France, and entertained me with bills of fare, the arrangement of dishes, and two sauces invented by himself; at length, such is the uncertainty of human happiness, I declared my opinion too hastily upon a pye made under his own direction; after which he grew so cold and negligent, that he was easily dismissed.

Many other lovers, or pretended lovers, I have had the honour to lead awhile in triumph. But two of them I drove from me by discovering they had no taste or knowledge in music; three I dismissed because they were drunkards; two, because they paid their addresses at the same time to other ladies; six, because they attempted to influence my choice by bribing my maid. Two more I discarded at the second visit for obscene allusions; and five for drollery on religion. In the latter part of my reign I sentenced two to perpetual exile, for offering me settlements by which the children of their former marriage would have been injured; four for misrepresenting the value of their estates; three for concealing their debts; and one, for raising the rent of a decrepit tenant.

After all that I have said, the reproach ought not to be extended beyond the crime, or either sex to be condemned, because some women or men are indelicate or dishonest.

A Remarkable STORY of the Affection of Two BROTHERS.

IN the beginning of the sixteenth century the Portuguese carracks sailed from Lisbon to Goa; a very great, rich, and flourishing colony of that nation in the East-Indies. There were no less than twelve hundred souls, mariners, merchants, passengers, priests, and friars, on board one of these vessels. The beginning of their voyage was prosperous, they had doubled the Southern extremity of the great continent of Africa, called the Cape of Good Hope, and were shaping their course North-East, to the great continent of India; when some gentlemen on board, who having studied geography and navigation (arts that reflect honour on the possessors) found in the latitude in which they were then sailing, a large ridge of rocks laid down in their sea-charts. They had no sooner made this discovery, but they acquainted the captain of the ship with the affair, desiring him to communicate the same to the pilot; which request he immediately gratified, recommending him to lie by in the night, and slacken sail by day, until they should be past the danger. It is a custom always among the Portuguese, absolutely to commit the sailing part, or the navigation of the vessel, to the pilot, who is answerable, with his head, for the safe conduct or carriage of the king's ships, or those belonging to private traders; and he is under no manner of direction from the captain, who commands in every other respect.

The pilot being one of those self-sufficient men, who think every hint given from others, in the way of their possession, as derogatory from their understanding, took it as an affront to be taught his art;

and, instead of complying with the captain's request, actually crowded more sail than the vessel had carried before. They had not sailed many hours, but just about the dawn of day a terrible disaster befel them, which would have been prevented if they had lain by : the ship struck upon a rock. I leave to the reader's imagination, what a scene of horror this dreadful accident must occasion among twelve hundred persons, all in the same inevitable danger, beholding, with fearful astonishment, that instantaneous death which now stared them in the face !

In this distress, the captain ordered the pinnace to be launched ; into which having tossed a small quantity of biscuit, and some boxes of marmalade, he jumped himself, with nineteen others ; who, with their swords, prevented the coming in of any more, lest the boat should sink. In this condition, they put off into the great Indian ocean, without a compass to steer by, or any fresh water, but what might happen to fall from the heavens, whose mercy alone could deliver them. After they had rowed four days, to and fro, in this miserable situation, the captain, who had been for some time sick and weak, died ; this added, if possible, to their misery ; for, as they now fell into confusion, every one would govern, and none would obey. This obliged them to elect one of their own company to command them, whose orders they implicitly agreed to follow. This person proposed to the company to draw lots, and to cast every fourth man over-board ; as their small stock of provision was so far spent, as not to be able, at a very short allowance, to sustain life above three days longer. They were now nineteen persons in all ; in this number were a friar and carpenter, both of whom they would exempt, as the one was useful to absolve and comfort them in their last extremity,

and

and the other to repair the pinnacle, in case of a leak, or other accident. The same compliment they paid to their new captain, he being the odd man, and his life of much consequence. He refused this indulgence a great while, but, at last, they obliged him to acquiesce; so that there were four to die out of the sixteen remaining persons.

The three first, after having confessed, and received absolution, submitted to their fate. The fourth whom fortune condemned was a Portuguese gentleman that had a younger brother in the boat, who seeing him about to be thrown over-board, most tenderly embraced him, and with tears in his eyes, besought him to let him die in his room; enforcing his arguments, by telling him, that he was a married man, and had a wife and children at Goa, besides the care of three sisters, who absolutely depended upon him: that as for himself, he was single, and his life of no great importance; he therefore conjured him to suffer him to supply his place. The elder brother astonished, and melting with this generosity, replied, "That since the Divine Providence had appointed him to suffer, it would be wicked and unjust to permit any other to die for him, especially a brother to whom he was so infinitely obliged." The younger, persisting in his purpose, would take no denial: but, throwing himself on his knees, held his brother so fast, that the company could not disengage them. Thus they disputed for a while, the elder brother bidding him be a father to his children, and recommended his wife to his protection; and as he would inherit his estate to take care of their common sisters; but all he could say did not make the younger desist. This was a scene of tenderness that must fill any breast, susceptible of generous impressions, with pity. At last, the constancy of the elder brother

yielded to the piety of the other; he acquiesced and suffered the gallant youth to supply his place, who being cast into the sea, and a good swimmer, soon got to the stern of the pinnace, and laid hold of the rudder with his right-hand, but being perceived by one of the sailors, he cut off the hand with a cutlass; then dropped into the sea, he caught again hold with his left, which received the same fate by a second blow; thus dismembered of both hands, he made a shift, notwithstanding, to keep himself above water with his feet, and two stumps, which he held bleeding upwards.

This moving spectacle so raised the pity of the whole company, that they cried out "he is but one man, let us endeavour to save his life," and he was accordingly taken into the boat; where he had his hands bound up as well as the place and circumstances would permit. They rowed all that night, and next morning, when the sun arose, as if heaven would reward the gallantry and piety of this young man, they descried land, which proved to be the mountains Mozambique, in Africa, not far from a Portuguese colony. Thither they all safely arrived, where they remained, until the next ships from Lisbon passed by, and carried them to Goa; at which city Linschotten, a writer of good credit and esteem, assures us, that he himself saw them land, supped with the two brothers that very night, beheld the younger with his stumps, and had the story from both their mouths, as well as from the rest of the company.

The REWARD of BRAVERY.

IN the reign of queen Ann, captain Hardy, whose ship was stationed at Lagos-bay, happened to receive undoubted advice of the arrival of the Spanish galleons under the convoy of 17 men of war, in the harbour of Vigo; and without any warrant for so doing set sail, and made such expedition that he came up with Sir George Rook, who was then admiral and commander in chief in the Mediteranean, and gave him that intelligence, which engaged him to make the best of his way to Vigo where all the before mentioned galleons and men of war were either taken or destroy'd. Sir George was sensible of the importance of the advice, and the successful expedition of the captain; but after the fight was over, the victory obtained, and the proper advantages made of it, the admiral ordered captain Hardy on board; and with a stern countenance, "You have done, Sir, (said he) a very important piece of service to the queen; you have added to the honour and riches of your country by your diligence; but don't you know that you are at this instant liable to be shot for quitting your station?" "He's unworthy to bear a commission under her majesty, (reply'd the captain,) who holds his own life as aught, when the glory and interest of his queen and country requires him to hazard it." On this heroic answer, the admiral dispatched him home with the first news of the victory, and letters of recommendation to the queen, who instantly knighted him, and afterwards made him a rear-admiral.

Another instance of the reward of bravery, was of the prince of Cont, who being highly pleased with the intrepid behaviour of a grenadier at the siege of Philipsburgh, in 1734, threw him his purse, excusing the smallness of the sum it contain'd, as being

being too poor a reward for his courage. Next morning the grenadier went to the prince with a couple of diamond rings and other jewels of considerable value. "Sir, (said he,) the gold I found in your purse I suppose your highness intended me; but these I bring back to you as having no claim to them." "You have, soldier, (answered the prince,) doubly deserved them by your bravery, and by your honesty; therefore they are yours."

The COMICAL PUNISHMENT.

ABOUT twenty years ago, an honest sober lad was put apprentice to a mercer on Ludgate-hill. The master observing him diligent in his business, and civil in his deportment, reposed in him an entire confidence, left his whole trade to his direction, and gave him liberty at any time to spend an evening among his friends; which had liked to have proved fatal. One night a woman picked him up in Fleet-street, and prevailed upon him to take her home with him. After they had been in bed (in the shop) about an hour, he put a crown in her hand, and desired her to go away, which she positively refused, unless he would cut her off enough satin to make her a gown and coat; nay, swore, if he would give her twenty guineas, she would not stir without a suit of clothes. He reasoned, threatened, and entreated, but to no purpose. The dispute continued till the shop-porter knocked at the door to take goods that were ordered out early. He was now at his wits end; at last concluded to let the fellow into the secret; accordingly told him the story; the porter persuaded, but in vain. At last clapped his handkerchief into her mouth at un-awares, tied her hands and feet together, put her into his sack naked as she was, which hoisting on his back,

back, carried to Fleet-market; seeing a cart of pease with nobody near it, tossed up his burden, and sneaked off. The owner of the cart coming soon after, flung down the sack upon the stones, crying, "What o'plague! is there no place to put your hog but among my pease?" Upon opening the sack, the poor wretch was almost expiring for want of breath. When the porter brought this account, the apprentice gave him her clothes she had left, and three guineas he had offered her, for his pains.

An Affecting STORY.

A Poor, idle, drunken weaver in Spital-Fields, had a faithful and laborious wife, who, by her frugality and industry, had laid by her as much money as purchased her a ticket in a late lottery. She had hid this very privately in the bottom of a trunk, and had given her number to a friend and confidant, who had promised to keep the secret, and bring her news of the success. The poor adventurer chanced one day to go abroad, when her careless husband, suspecting she had saved some money, searches every corner, till at length he finds this same ticket, which he immediately seizes, sells, and squanders away the money, without the wife suspecting any thing of the matter. A day or two afterwards, this friend, who was a woman, comes and brings the wife word, that she had a prize of five hundred pounds. The poor creature, overjoyed, flies up stairs to her husband, who was then at work, and desires him to leave his loom for that evening, and come and drink with a friend of his and her's below. The man received this cheerful invitation, as bad husbands sometimes do, and after a cross word, told her he would not come. His wife with tenderness renewed her importunity, and at length said

id to him, "My love, I have within these few months, unknown to you, scraped together as much money as has bought us a ticket in the lottery; and now here is Mrs. Quick come to tell me, that it is come up this morning a five hundred pound prize." The husband replied immediately, "You lie, you slut, you have no ticket, for I have sold it." The poor woman, upon this, fainted away in a fit, recovered, and immediately run distracted. As she had no design to defraud her husband, but was willing only to participate in his good fortune, every one will naturally pity her, but think her husband's punishment but just.

Instances of True and False COURAGE.

DURING Oliver Cromwell's protectorship, a noisy young officer, who had been bred in France, came to the ordinary at the Black Horse in Holborn, where the person that usually presided at table was a rough old-fashioned gentleman, who, according to the custom of those times, had been both major and preacher of a regiment. The young officer was venting some new-fangled notions, and speaking, in his gaiety, against the dispensations of Providence. The major, at first, only desired him to speak more respectfully of one for whom all the company had an honour; but finding him run on in his extravagance, began to reprimand him in a more serious manner. "Young man," said he, "do not abuse your Maker while you are eating his bread, Consider whose air you breath, whose presence you are in, and who it is that gave you the power of that very speech which you make use of to his dishonour." The young fellow, who thought to turn matters to a jest, asked him. If he was going

going to preach ? but at the same time desired him to take care what he said, when he spoke to a man of honour. “ A man of honour !” says the major : “ thou art an infidel, and a blasphemer, and I shall use thee as such.” At length the quarrel ran so high, that the young officer challenged the major. Upon their coming into the garden, the old fellow advised his antagonist to consider the place into which one pass might drive him ; but finding him grow upon him to a degree of scurrility, as believing the advice proceeded from fear: “ Sirrah,” says he, “ if a thunderbolt does not strike thee dead, before I come at thee, I shall not fail to chastise thee for thy prophaneness to thy Maker, and thy sauciness to his servant,” Upon this he drew his sword, and cried with a loud voice, “ *The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon;*” which so terrified our young gentleman, that he was immediately disarmed, and thrown upon his knees. In this posture he begged for life, which the major refused to grant, before he had asked pardon for his offence, in a short extempore prayer, which the major dictated upon the spot, and which his proselyte repeated after him, in the presence of the whole ordinary, that were now gathered about them in the garden.

The FATAL FROLIC.

[Trifles like these to serious Mischiefs lead.]

DURING the hard frost, in the year 1740, four young gentlemen of considerable rank rode into an inn, near one of the principal avenues to the city of London, at eleven o'clock at night, without any attendant; and having expressed some concern about their horses, and overlooked the provision that was made for them, called for a room, ordering wine and tobacco to be brought in, and declaring, that as they were to set out very early in the morning, it was not worth while to go to bed. Before the waiter returned, each of them had laid a pocket pistol upon the table, which when he entered they appeared very solicitous to conceal, and affected some confusion at the surprise. They perceived with great satisfaction that the fellow was alarmed at his discovery; and having, upon various pretences, called him often into the room, one of them contrived to pull out a mask with his handkerchief, from the pocket of a horseman's coat. They discoursed in dark and ambiguous terms, affected a busy and anxious circumspection, urged the man often to drink, and seemed desirous to render him subservient to some purpose which they were unwilling to discover. They endeavoured to conciliate his good will by extravagant commendations of his dexterity and diligence, and encouraged him to familiarity by asking him many questions. He was, however, still cautious and reserved; one of them, therefore, pretending to have known his mother, put a crown into his hand, and soon after took an opportunity to ask him at what hour the stage-coach

set

set out in the morning, whether it was full, and if it was attended by a guard.

The waiter was now confirmed in his suspicions; and, though he had accepted the bribe, resolved to discover the secret. Having evaded the questions with as much art as he could, he went to his master, Mr. Spiggot, who was then in bed, and acquainted him with what he had observed.

Mr. Spiggot immediately got up, and held a consultation with his wife what was to be done. She advised him to send immediately for the constable, and secure them: but he considered, that as this would probably prevent a robbery, it would deprive him of an opportunity to gain a considerable sum, which he would become entitled to upon their conviction, if he could apprehend them after the fact; he therefore very prudently called up four of his hoflers that belonged to the yard, and having communicated his suspicions and design, engaged them to enlist under his command as an escort to the coach, and to watch the motions of the highwaymen as he should direct. But mine host also wisely considering, that this expedition would be attended with certain expence, and that the profit which he expected was somewhat doubtful, acquainted the passengers with their danger, and proposed that a guard should be hired by a voluntary contribution; a proposal to which (upon a sight of the robbers through the window) they readily agreed. Spiggot was now secured against pecuniary loss, at all events. About three o'clock, the knights of the frolic, with infinite satisfaction, beheld five passengers, among whom there was but one gentleman, step into the coach with the aspect of criminals going to execution; and enjoyed the significant signs which passed between them and the landlord, concerning the precautions taken for their defence.

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As soon as the coach was gone, the supposed highwaymen paid their reckoning in great haste, and called for their horses : care had already been taken to saddle them ; for it was not Mr. Spiggot's desire that the adventures should go far before they executed their purpose ; and as soon as they departed he prepared to follow them with his possee. He was indeed greatly surprised to see them turn the contrary way when they went out of the inn yard ; but he supposed they might chuse to take a small circle to prevent suspicion, as they might easily overtake the coach whenever they would : he determined, however, to keep behind them ; and therefore, instead of going after the coach, followed them at a distance, till, to his utter disappointment, he saw them persist in a different rout, and at length turn into an inn in Piccadilly, where several servants in livery appeared to have been waiting for them, and where his curiosity was soon gratified with their characters and names.

In the mean time the coach proceeded on its journey. The panic of the passengers increased upon perceiving that the guard which they had hired did not come up ; and they began to accuse Spiggot, of having betrayed them to the robbers for a share of the booty : they could not help looking every moment from the window, though it was so dark that a waggon could not have been seen at the distance of twenty yards : every tree was mistaken for a man and horse, the noise of the vehicle in which they rode was believed to be the trampling of pursuers, and they expected every moment to hear the coachman commanded to stop, and to see a pistol thrust in among them, with the dreadful injunction, " Deliver your money."

It happened that when the coach was got about two miles out of town, it was overtaken by a horseman

man who rode very hard, and called out with great eagerness to the driver to stop. The wife of the gentleman in the coach was so terrified, that she sunk down from her seat; and he was so much convinced of his danger, so touched at her distress, and so incensed against the ruffians who had produced it, that, without uttering a word, he drew a pistol from his pocket, and seeing the man parley with the coachman, who had now stopped his horses, he shot him dead upon the spot.

The man, however who had thus fallen the victim of a frolic, was soon known to be the servant of a lady who had paid earnest for the vacant place in the stage; and, having been by some accident delayed till it was set out, had followed it in a hackney coach, and sent him before her to detain it till she came up.

The next day, while the bucks were entertaining a polite circle at White's, with an account of the farce they had played the night before, news arrived of the catastrophe. A sudden confusion covered every countenance; and they remained some time silent, looking upon each other, mutually accused, reproached and condemned.

Story of HALL, the COMEDIAN.

THE late Mr. John Hall was one day standing at a coffee-house door in the neighbourhood of St. James's, with Mr. Quin, and playing with a little dog he frequently carried under his arm: when his grace my lord duke of —, who had been a patron of Mr. Hall's, was just stepping into his chariot. After receiving the comedians's salutes, and observing he had got a handsome little puppy, Mr. Hall very innocently replied,
 " Yes,

“ Yes, please your grace, he’s one of king Charles’s breed.” The chariot now began to move, and Mr. Quin turning about to poor Hall, (who never dreamt he had been guilty of any error) with his usual affectation and furliness, cried, “ Why, you blockhead, do you know that you have affronted my lord duke? hadn’t you brains enough to remember that he’s a grandson of king Charles’s, himself?” Mr. Hall now recollected his mistake, and fearing he might incur the duke’s displeasure, ran immediately after the chariot, and coming, at length, blowing up to the window, began to apologize for his expression, and concluded with, “ I hope your grace won’t be offended at what was inadvertently said, for I assure your grace, I did not remember your father was a bastard of king Charles’s.”

The ANCHORITE and ANGEL; or, A Vindication of Providence.

A N holy Anchorite being in a wilderness, among other contemplations, began admiring the method of Providence, who out of causes which seem bad to us produceth oftentimes good effects; how he suffers virtuous, loyal and religious men to be oppressed, and others to prosper. As he was transported with these ideas, a goodly young man appeared to him: Father, “ said he, I know your thoughts are distracted, and I am sent to quiet them; therefore if you will accompany me a few days, you shall return very well satisfied of those doubts which now encumber your mind.” So going along with him, they went to pass over a deep river, whereon there was a narrow bridge; and meeting with another passenger, the young man jostled him
into

into the water, and drowned him. The old Anchorite being much astonished thereat, would have left him; but his guide said, "Father be not amazed, because I shall give you good reasons for what I do, and you shall see stranger things than this, before you and I part; but at last I shall settle your judgment, and put your mind in full repose." So going that night to lodge in an inn where there was a crew of banditti, and debauched ruffians, the young man struck into their company, and revelled with them till the morning, while the Anchorite spent most of the night in numbering his beads; but as soon as they were departed thence, they met with some officers who went to apprehend that crew of banditti they had left behind them. The next day they came to a gentleman's house, which was a fair place, where they received all the courteous hospitality that could be; but in the morning as they parted there was a child in a cradle, which was the only son of the gentleman; and the young man spying an opportunity, strangled the child, and so got away. The third day they came to another inn, where the man of the house treated them with all the civility that could be, and gratis; yet the young man embezzled a silver goblet, and carried it away in his pocket, which still encreased the amasement of the Anchorite. The fourth day, in the evening they came to lodge at another inn, where the host was very sullen, and uncivil to him, expecting much more than the value of what they had spent; yet at parting the young man bestowed upon him the silver goblet he had stolen from the host who had used them so kindly. The fifth day they made towards a very rich town; but some miles before they came at it, they met with a merchant at the close of the day, who had a great charge of money about him; and asking the next passage to the town, the young man put him

in

in a quite contrary way. The Anchorite and his guide being come to the town, at the gate they saw a devil, who lay as it were sentinel, but he was asleep; they found also both men and women at sundry kinds of sports, some dancing, others singing, with divers sorts of revellings. They went afterwards to a convent of Capuchius, where, about the gate, they found legions of devils laying siege to that monastery, yet they got in and lodged that night. Being awaked the next morning, the young man came to that cell where the Anchorite was lodged, and told him, I know your heart is full of horror, and your head full of confusion, astonishment, and doubts, for what you have seen since the first time of our association, But know, I am an angel sent from heaven to rectify your judgment, as also to correct a little your curiosity in researching of the ways and acts of Providence too far; for though separately they seem strange to the shallow apprehension of man, yet conjunctly they all tend to produce good effects."

"The man which I tumbled into the river was an act of Providence; for he was going upon a mischievous design, that would have damned not only his own soul, but destroyed the party against whom it was intended; therefore I prevented it."

"The cause why I conversed all night with that crew of rogues, was also an act of Providence, for they intended to go a robbing all that night; but I kept them there purposely till the next morning, that the hand of justice might seize upon them."

"Touching the kind host from whom I took a silver goblet, and the clownish or knavish host to whom I gave it; let this demonstrate to you, that good men are liable to crosses and losses, whereof bad men oftentimes reap the benefit; but it commonly produceth patience in the one, and pride in the other."

“ Concerning that noble gentleman, whose child I strangled after so courteous an entertainment, know, that also was an act of Providence; for the gentleman was so indulgent and doating on that child that it lessened his love to heaven; so I took away the cause.”

“ Touching the merchant whom I misguided on his way, it was likewise an act of Providence; for had he gone the direct way to this town, he had been robbed, and his throat cut; therefore I preserved him by that deviation.”

“ Now concerning this great luxurious city, whereas we spied out one devil who lay asleep without the gate, there being so many about this poor convent: you must consider, that Lucifer being already assured of this riotous town by corrupting their manners every day more and more, he needs but one centinel to secure it: but for this holy place of retirement, this monastery inhabited by so many devout souls, who spend their whole lives in acts of mortification, as exercises of piety and penance, he hath brought so many legions to beleaguer them; yet he can do no good upon them, for they bear up against him most undauntedly, and maugre all his infernal power and stratagems.”

The GAMESTER.

AT Tunbridge, in the year 1715, a gentlemen, whose name was Hedges, made a very brilliant appearance; he had been married about two years to a young lady of great beauty and large fortune; they had one child, a boy, in whom they bestowed all that affection which they could spare from each other. He knew nothing of gaming, nor seemed to have the least passion for play; but he was unacquainted

quainted with his own heart, he began by degrees to bett at the tables for trifling fums, and his soul took fire at the prospect of immediate gain; he was soon surrounded with sharpers, who with calmness lay in ambush for his fortune, and coolly took advantage of the precipitancy of his passions.

His lady perceived the ruin of her family approaching, but at first, without being able to form any scheme to prevent it. She advised with his brother, who at that time was possessed of a small fellowship in Cambridge. It was easily seen, that whatever passion took the lead in her husband's mind, seemed there to be fixed unalterably; it was determined therefore, to let him pursue his fortune, but previously take measures to prevent the pursuits being fatal.

Accordingly every night this gentleman was a constant attendant at the hazard tables; he understood neither the arts of sharpers, nor even the allowed strokes of a connoisseur, yet still he played. The consequence is obvious; he lost his estate, his equipage, his wife's jewels, and every other moveable that could be parted with, except a repeating watch. His agony upon this occasion was inexpressible; he was even mean enough to ask a gentleman, who sat near, to lend him a few pieces, in order to turn his fortune; but this prudent gamester, who plainly saw there was no expectations of being repaid, refused to lend a farthing, alledging a former resolution against lending. Hedges was at last furious with the continuance of ill success; and pulling out his watch, asked if any person in company, would set him sixty guineas upon it: the company were silent. He then demanded fifty; still no answer: he sunk to forty, thirty, twenty; finding the company still without answering, he cried out by G—d it shall never go for less, and dashed it
against

against the floor, at the same time, attempting to dash out his brains against the marble chimney-piece.

The last act of desperation immediately excited the attention of the whole company; they instantly gathered round, and prevented the effects of his passion; and after he again became cool, he was permitted to return home, with sullen discontent, to his wife. Upon his entering her apartment, she received him with her usual tenderness and satisfaction; while he answered her caresses with contempt and sternness; his disposition being quite altered with his misfortunes. "But my dear Jemmy," says his wife, "perhaps you don't know the news I have to tell; my mama's old uncle is dead, the messenger is now in the house, and you know his estate is settled upon you." This account seemed only to increase his agony; and looking angry at her, cried, "There you lie, my dear, his estate is not settled upon me." "I beg your pardon, says she, I really thought it was, at least you have always told me so." "No," returned he, "as sure as you and I are to be miserable here, and our children beggars hereafter, I have sold the reversion of it this day, and have lost every farthing I got for it at the hazard table." "What, all," replied the lady, "Yes, every farthing," returned he, "and I owe a thousand pounds more than I have to pay." Thus speaking, he took a few frantic steps across the room. When the lady had a little enjoyed his perplexity, "No, my dear, cried she, you have lost but a trifle, and you owe nothing; our brother and I have taken care to prevent the effects of your rashness, and are actually the persons who have won your fortune; we employed proper persons for this purpose, who brought their winnings to me; your money, your equipage, are in my possession, and here I return them to you, from whom they

they were unjustly taken; I only ask permission to keep my jewels, and to keep you, my greatest jewel, from such dangers for the future." Her prudence had the proper effect, he ever after retained a sense of his former follies, and never played for the smallest sums, even for amusement.

The Folly of DISCONTENT.

I AM inclined to think that the misfortunes, as they are termed, of life, are not so often owing to the want of care, as the having too much, and being over-sollicitous to acquire, what nature, the great substitute of heaven, would effect for us, if we would be contented to follow her dictates. The brutes, led on by that inward impulse we call instinct, never err in their pursuit of what is good for them; but man, enlightened by reason, and particular marks of Providence, which distinguishes him from the rest of beings, obstinately refuses to be conducted to happiness, and travels towards misery with labour and fatigue. 'Twould be absurd to say a rational creature would voluntarily chuse misery, but we too frequently do it blindly. Every thing, as the philosophical emperor observes, is fancy; but as that fancy is in our own power to govern, we are justly punished if we suffer it to wander at will; or industriously set it to work to deceive us into uneasiness. The most sure and speedy way to detect any mental impostor, is by soliloquy or self-examination, in the way laid down by our great restorer of antient learning: if our fancy stands the test of this mirror, which represents all objects in their true colours, 'tis genuine, and may be accepted by the mind with safety; but if it recedes from the tryal, or changes in the attempt,

tempt, 'tis spurious, and ought to be rejected. This will inform us, that the great mistake of mankind in their pursuit after happiness, is casting their looks at a distance for lands of paradise, whilst the prospect, so much sought after, blooms unbeheld around them.

At Isfahan in Persia, there lived a young man of a noble family and great fortune, named Achmet, who from his infancy shewed the earliest signs of a restless turbulent spirit; and though by nature endowed with an understanding superior to any of his age, was led away with every gust of passion to precipitate himself into the greatest dangers. After having experienced the misfortune, that accrued from such a disposition, he became somewhat more diffident of his own abilities. and determined to take the advice of those who had been more conversant with human nature, how to proceed for the future. There dwelt not far from the city, in a little cell among a ridge of mountains, an old hermit, who many years before had retired from the world to that place, to spend the rest of his days in prayer and contemplation. This good man became so famous through the country for his exemplary life, that if any one had any uneasiness of mind, he immediately went to Abudah, (for so he was called) and never failed of receiving consolation, in the deepest affliction, from his prudent counsel; which made the superstitious imagine, that there was a charm in the sound of his words to drive away despair of all her gloomy attendants. Hither Achmet repaired, and as he was entering a grove near the sage's habitation, met, according to his wishes, the venerable recluse; he prostrated himself before him, and with signs of the utmost anguish, "Behold," said he, O divine Abudah, favourite of our "mighty prophet, who resembleth Allha, by dis-
"tributing

"tributing the balm of comfort to the distressed,
 "behold the most miserable of mortals." He was
 going on, when the old man, deeply affected with
 his lamentations, interrupted him, and taking him
 by the hand, "Rise, my son, said he, let me
 "know the cause of thy misfortunes, and whatever
 "is in my power shall be done to restore thee to
 "tranquility." "Alas!" replied Achmet, "how can
 "I be restored to that which I never yet possessed!
 "for know, thou enlightened judge of the faithful,
 "I never have spent an easy moment that I can re-
 "member, since reason first dawned upon my mind;
 "hitherto, even from my cradle, a thousand fancies
 "have attended me through life, and are conti-
 "nually, under the false appearances of happiness,
 "deceiving me into anxiety, whilst others are en-
 "joying the most undisturbed repose. Tell me
 "then I conjure thee by the holy temple of Mecca,
 "from whence thy prayers have been so often car-
 "ried to Mahomet by the ministers of Paradise, by
 "what method I may arrive, if not at the sacred
 "tranquility thou enjoyest, yet at the harbour
 "of such earthly peace as the holy Koran hath pro-
 "mised to all those that obey its celestial precepts;
 "for sure the damn'd, who remove alternately from
 "the different extremes of chilling frosts and
 "scorching flames, cannot suffer greater torments
 "than I undergo at present." Abudah perceiving
 that a discontented mind alone was the source of
 the young man's troubles: "Be comforted, my son,"
 said he, "for a time shall come, by the will of
 "heaven, when thou shalt receive the reward of
 "a true believer and be freed from all thy mis-
 "fortunes; but thou must still undergo many
 "more, before thou canst be numbered with the
 "truly happy. Thou enquirest of me where hap-
 "piness dwells. Look round the world, and see
 "in how many different scenes she has taken up
 the

“ her residence ; sometimes, though very rarely, in
 “ a palace : often in a cottage. The philosopher’s
 “ cave of retirement, and the soldier’s tent amidst
 “ the noise and dangers of war, are by turns her
 “ habitation ; the rich man may see her in his trea-
 “ sures, and the beggar in his wallet. In all these
 “ stations she is to be found, but in none altogether.
 “ Go then and seek thy fortune among the various
 “ scenes of the world, and if thou shouldst prove
 “ unsuccessful in this probationary expedition,
 “ return to me when seven years are expired, when
 “ the passions of youth begin to subside, and I will
 “ instruct thee by a religious emblem, which our
 “ great prophet shewed me in a dream, how to ob-
 “ tain the end of all thy wishes.” Achmet, not
 understanding Abudah’s meaning, left him as dis-
 contented as he came, and returned to Ispahan with
 a full resolution of gratifying every inclination of
 pleasure and ambition, imagining one of these must
 be the road to felicity. Accordingly he gave up
 his first years entirely to those enjoyments which
 enervate both body and mind ; but finding at length
 no real satisfaction in these, but rather diseases and
 disappointments, he changed his course of life, and
 followed the dictates of avarice, that was continu-
 ally offering to his eyes external happiness seated on
 a throne of gold. His endeavours succeeded, and
 by the assistance of fortune he became the richest
 subject of the east. Still something was wanting.
 Power and honour presented themselves to his view,
 and wholly engaged his attention. These desires did
 not remain long unsatisfied, for by the favour of the
 Sophy he was advanced to the highest dignities of
 the Persian empire. But alas ! he was still never
 the nearer to the primary object of his most ardent
 wishes ; fears, doubts, and a thousand different
 anxieties that attend the great, perpetually haunted

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him

him, and made him seek again the calm retirement of a rural life : nor was the latter productive of any more comfort than the former stations. In short, being disappointed, and finding happiness in no one condition, he sought the hermit a second time, to complain of his fate, and claim the promise he had received before the beginning of his adventures. Abudah seeing his disciple return, again after the stated time, still discontented, took him by the hand, and smiling upon him with an air of gentle reproof, “ Achmet, said he, cease to blame the fates for the
 “ uneasiness which arises alone from thy own breast;
 “ behold, since thou hast performed the task I enjoined, in order to make thee more capable of
 “ following my future instructions, I will unfold
 “ to thee the grand mystery of wisdom, by which
 “ she leads her votaries to happiness. See (said he, pointing to a river in which several young swans
 “ were eagerly swimming after their own shadows
 “ in the stream) those silly birds imitate mankind;
 “ they are in pursuit of that which their own motion
 “ puts to flight: behold others, which have tired
 “ themselves with their unnecessary labours, and
 “ sitting still, are in possession of what their utmost
 “ endeavours could never have accomplished. Thus,
 “ my son, happiness is the shadow of contentment,
 “ and rests or moves for ever with its original.”

PLEASURE and HEALTH. A DREAM.

METHOUGHT I was all of a sudden conveyed into a far distant country, where there were a prodigious concourse of people of all ranks and conditions. There stood upon the brow of a hill, which stretched itself along a spacious plain, a magnificent temple, dedicated to two deities, who
 were

were generally at variance. One was cloathed in a flowing mantle of scarlet sattin, interwoven with flowers, and spangled with gold and diamonds; she had gaiety and vivacity in all her motions, and her eyes sparkled with fire; she sat carelessly upon a couch, under a canopy supported by little smiling boys; and a fountain streamed from her feet, that had this peculiar quality, the more that people drank of it, the more thirsty they grew; this was the goddess of Pleasure. The other deity who sat at some distance from her, made a very different impression on me; she was dressed in a robe of plain white silk, with her hair in ringlets, playing about her shoulders: her air was serene and composed, between languishing and lively: she had a chaplet of roses in one hand, and was continually beckoning with the other to those that were so eager in crowding to the fountain, though they would not look towards her: she had few votaries, affected very little pomp or state, Temperance and Content being her chief attendants; this was the goddess of Health.

Two grand porticos with adamantine pillars adorned the front of the temple: the throng that pressed to enter, created such a confusion, that I, who stood upon a rising ground at some distance, and had a prospect of the assembly, could hardly distinguish the face of any one person in it. There were two great avenues leading to it, and a vast number of little paths that fell by cross ways into them: but whilst one avenue was so crowded, that there was no passing along, the other was almost empty. At length the torrent rushed with such violence, that the gate which led to the fountain of Pleasure was burst open; which so startled and disgusted the goddess of Health, that she instantly flew up to heaven; and the moment she was gone, Darkness and Disorder came in her place, which presented

so dismal a scene, that it frightened me to that degree that I started almost half out of my bed, and instantly awaked.

The fatal Effects of Imprudence and Revenge in a Parent, illustrated by a Story taken from real Life.

THE dreadful consequences of an absolute subjection to any of the baser passions, are almost daily obvious to those who remark the common incidents of human life. Indeed all the ills which befall mankind arise from their vices; and however partial we may be to ourselves, if we examine candidly into our conduct and behaviour, we shall find that our errors or follies have been the principal source of any disagreeable circumstances that do or have attended us. The irregularities of youth generally produce a train of evils throughout succeeding years, and that may be done in a single hour, which may afford cause of repentance till, and at the very day of death. It is observable, that passions are more absurdly and ridiculously indulged by persons past the meridian of life, than by those in its bloom and vigour; though the latter must feel them more sensibly, and have certainly more justifiable pleas for excuse.

I was led into this subject by reflecting on an occurrence, which happened some few years ago to two persons of my acquaintance, for whom I had a very great esteem. In tracing this affair, we shall see the complicated effects of an inordinate affection, and undue revenge, which for want of being kept under by the check of reason, turned against themselves, and proved the ruin of a very worthy family.

Mrs.

Mrs. Foible, a widow lady, had one only daughter, to whom she was greatly attached, as she not only possessed many mental and personal charms, but was remarkably dutiful to her parent, and polite and affable in her general behaviour. As her fortune was very small, she had no reason to think of matching her daughter with any person above the degree of a reputable tradesman; nor indeed, were her views exalted beyond the bounds of reasonable probability. In process of time the daughter, Maria, received the addresses of a young man of much honour and industry, just out of his time, but whose circumstances were not sufficient to set him up in business; Mrs. Foible, therefore, objected to a marriage between two people, who could have nothing but poverty before them; because the interest of her money was hardly sufficient to maintain her decently, and therefore would not admit of an reduction by a disbursement in favour of her daughter. However, as it was their first love, the young people kept up an intercourse, and their affection growing with their acquaintance, after some time they vowed eternal and mutual constancy.

The young man sincere, and industrious, proposed marriage, and offered his best endeavours to maintain the darling of his soul with decency and comfort; before they had fixed on the day it fortunately happened, that a relation of Mrs. Foible's died, and bequeathed her 1000*l.* and Maria, 500*l.* The mother elated by this increase of fortune, began to set a higher value on herself; and endeavoured to dissuade her daughter from the proposed match, representing it not only as beneath her, but that it might obstruct some more advantageous and honourable connection. But the generous girl, endued with much more noble sentiments than her mother, was deaf to all her dissuasions; urged, that

she was bound by the ties of honour and justice, to marry the man who would have taken her without a shilling, and used such powerful arguments, in vindication of her resolution, that they were soon married with consent of all parties. The behaviour of the new married couple greatly pleased Mrs. Foible, insomuch that the son-in-law, having occasion for an additional sum to carry on a very extensive branch of business in which he had embarked, applied to his mother for the loan of 200*l.* with which she most chearfully complied, assured him that she would never demand the capital provided she received the interest for her support. But this turn of mind in the widow soon changed; for in a short time she became wantonly enamoured of an Irish fortune hunter, and married him contrary to the advice of all her friends. She was now totally changed, and from the tender mother, had degenerated into the thoughtless woman of dissipation and indulgence, without the least rule of reason or restraint.

An expensive course soon reduced the state of her finances, which occasioning her son-in-law, as well as daughter, to intimate to her their disapprobation of her conduct; she began to conceive a most violent resentment against them. The poor young fellow, on his mother's assuring him she should never demand the money, had disposed of it in trade, in such a manner that he could not return it immediately without injuring him most essentially in his business, and therefore apprehended a most distressful scene from its being called in.

Nor were his fears without foundation; for the frantic mother, distressed through her own follies, and the extravagance of an abandoned husband, not only demanded the money to be immediately restored, but determined to heap her revenge on the young couple;

couple; gave out that she had been ruined by supporting her son-in-law in his ambitious, expensive undertakings. This disingenuous report alarmed his creditors; a statute of bankruptcy was brought into the house, on the very day that his wife was delivered of a child; and affected her in so poignant a manner, that she died in a few hours after that doleful event. But it appearing on a review that there was more than sufficient to satisfy the legal demands of his creditors, the unhappy young man was treated with great generosity, and enabled to purchase a commission, and depart honourably for the East-Indies. The weak and vicious mother atoned most amply for her vice and folly; as being conscious of her own guilt, her peace of mind was sacrificed; and her husband, when all was spent, treated her with the utmost cruelty, upbraided her with her ridiculous fondness, and at length left her to shift for herself. Thus situated she had no other resource than that of a workhouse, where she expired with grief, about a year after she had, at the infliction of the basest of passions, involved her dutiful children as well as herself in remediless woe and ruin.

Nothing surely can afford a more lively representation of Imprudence and Revenge, than this narrative. If Mrs. Foible had continued in a situation becoming her years and connections, she would have been happy in her own reflections, and might have rendered those happy who should have been deemed the only objects of her care and attention.

On the fatal effects of the Conduct of those Parents, who by force oblige their Children to enter upon employments to which they have the utmost aversion.

IT is my usual custom to take a walk to Hornsey-wood, and as I have always been addicted to solitude, I generally go by myself, only that instead of the living, I often solicit the company of the dead, or, in other words, I carry along with me a volume of Shakespear, Milton, Thompson, &c. or some of the most celebrated English writers. By a conduct so opposite to the reigning fashion of the age, I am seldom interrupted in my meditations; but a few days ago the following occurrence presented itself, which I think ought to be committed to writing, and transmitted to the knowledge of the public.

As I was walking through the wood, reading Thompson's *Castle of Indolence*, I spied a man sitting under one of the bushes in a melancholy posture, with a book in his hand, which I afterwards learned was Cicero's *De Natura Deorum*. As the man was very meanly dressed I was prompted by curiosity to enter into conversation with him, and after a small refreshment, at Hornsey-house, he repeated the following narrative.

"My father was a gentleman of a small, but independent fortune in the county of N——, where I was born, 1733. I was the youngest of fifteen children, and consequently had no reason to expect much of the good things of this world from my parents. In the most early part of my youth I became enamoured of books, long before I knew their contents, or even understood a single letter; and whilst my play-fellows were diverting themselves with their tops and whistles, I was employed by

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learning the difference between a noun and a verb. You may easily conceive, that one who had (as it were) an innate love for books, would soon make a remarkable progress in the knowledge of letters ; and such was the opinion of some very good judges, with respect to myself. Having acquired an ordinary knowledge of the Greek and Roman classics, I was afterwards entered as a student in one of our Universities, and after going through a course of academical learning was honoured with a degree of Master of Arts ; but alas ; from that period, Sir, that poverty commenced, to which you see me at this time reduced. During the vacation I went to see my relations, when I found my aged father expiring under the excruciating tortures of an incurable disease, and which in a few days put a period to his existence. The plan laid down by my father for my future support, was to take orders in the church, but to that I had always the utmost aversion, as I had little pleasure in any other studies but law and history. It is a truth too well known to be denied, that youth and prudence seldom go hand in hand together, and such, it was with me. Whilst very young I married, without ever considering in what manner I was to support a family, or procure either the comforts or necessaries of life. The small sum left by my father was soon spent, so that I was often obliged to labour with my hands at the meanest employments, in order to procure bread for a young family. It has been often observed, that there are some people formed by nature only for one employment, and that no oppression whatsoever can lead their thoughts from their favourite studies ; thus through a variety of afflictions, seldom known, I went over a compleat course of ancient and modern history, and the best writers on

the civil law. With such accomplishments you will be surprized that I have never yet been able to make any figure in the world, for the advantage of my family ; but there is a certain bashfulness to which many people are subject, and which hinders them from rising superior to adverse fortune, unless they are first patronized by the great. I have planned many schemes of happiness, but had not courage sufficient to reduce them to practice, and you see me here destitute of every comfort, and even the necessaries of life, without a friend to pity or assist me. But *hinc illa lacrym.*

Upon enquiry some days afterwards, I found that what he had told me was literally true, the account of his distress was far from being exaggerated, and upon the whole I could not help making the following reflection.

That persons possessed of the best natural parts, improved by a liberal education, but by want of being properly cherished, are entirely lost to the world.

That neither learning nor virtue can procure earthly grandeur, unless patronized by those in power, or assisted by an enterprizing genius ; and that those parents are greatly to be censured, who educate their children for employments to which they have the utmost aversion ; for had the person I have just now mentioned, been suffered to follow his own inclinations, he might have been useful in society, and an honour to the literary world ; whereas he is lost to the one without reaping any benefit from the other.

LOVE'S INGENUITY; or, CUPID'S CUNNING

Before the Marriage-Act took place a remarkable nuptial ceremony was performed in a pleasant village not far from Exeter.

IN this village, one Mr. Placid occupied a pretty paternal seat, and a well cultivated family estate. His spouse was what the world calls a good woman, that is, she was neat, careful, and an excellent housewife; but if we consider the petulancy of her temper, she was not so great a blessing as some might imagine.

Mr. Placid had been blest by this lady with a beautiful daughter, named Juliana, adorned with every exterior charm, and embellished with every polite accomplishment; happy in the excellence of her temper, and the benevolence of her heart; replete with all that could inspire men with love, but devoid of that coquetish acrimony which creates envy in the bosom of a woman.

Mr. Placid had for his near neighbour, one Doctor Prig, who possessed two fat livings in that part of the country, one of which was the parish where he resided.

Doctor Prig was the son of a dignified ecclesiastic. In his childhood he had been spoiled in the nursery, by the indulgence of his mother, who dying when he was about ten years of age, left him to the care of his surviving parent, who was too much wrapt up in his own importance, and the study of the father's to descend to the consideration of his child's future welfare. He was therefore, to prevent trouble, sent to a boarding-school in the neighbourhood, where he was whipped into stupidity by the careful Mr. Slasham, in order to make him a

classical scholar. At the proper age he was removed to one of the universities, where he was lectured into pedantry, which, added to the profound respect he always entertained of his own abilities, very frequently rendered his company insupportable.

As Doctor Prig visited at Mr. Placid's, it is no wonder that the charms of Miss Juliana made an impression on his heart. He was forcibly smitten—declared his passion in form to the parents—and, after due deliberation, it was affirmed by Mrs. Placid, that the proposal was too lucratively eligible to be slighted. As Mr. Placid and his wife, were but one, according to the matrimonial law of nations, they never had but one opinion, that is, Mr. Placid was always obliged to adopt the opinion of his spouse and call it his own, which prevented disputes. Mrs. Placid then being of opinion, that it ought to be a match, the hymenial plan of operations was settled without once consulting the young lady's inclinations, who happened to despise Doctor Prig with as supreme a contempt as her benevolent heart was capable of conceiving.

At this critical period arrived Captain Affable, a distant relation of Mr. Placid's, upon a visit of a month. He had never seen Juliana since her childhood; he was struck with the angelic bloom of her ripening beauties, a mutual tenderness swam in the eyes of each, and a sympathetic intercourse of speaking glances gave intelligence to each of the situation of the other's heart; they were both, allowing for the difference of sex, equally beautiful, and equally accomplished. And a second sighted seventh son of a seventh son would have sworn that the recording angel of the Fates had written both their names in the same connubial line. As they were unsuspected, they soon found an opportunity of speaking together in private. Captain Affable
had

had the character of sincerity, Juliana knew nothing of the distant ceremonial of modish coquetry; he declared his passion; she confessed her situation; they vowed mutual constancy, and equally lamented the avariciously absurd intention of her parents. After determining upon their future conduct they parted.

Captain Affable next morning feigned an absolute emergency to be absent for the space of four days; he rode post to London, procured a special licence, and returned at his promised time.

A few evenings after his arrival, Doctor Prig threw out several illiberal reflections and sarcastical sneers on the gentlemen of the army, which the captain retorted with some jokes on the pride and incapacity of the clergy. The dispute grew warm, till after many assertions in disavowal of each party, the captain offered to wager the pedant that he could not repeat the requisite official ceremonies of the church without a book. The doctor accepted the challenge, and defied him to mention any ceremony in which he was not perfect, without Rubrick Assistance. The captain named the marriage ceremony, at the same time with a sneer insisting, that he did not believe he knew in what part of the ceremony to put on the ring. The doctor, in his own justification, began to repeat the ceremony. A plain gold ring was produced, which Doctor Prig, impatient to vindicate his honour, and win the hundred guineas, in the agitation of his spirits, placed on Juliana's finger, without reflecting on the consequence. Mr. Placid, whose brain was not designed by nature for the discovery of plots, thought proper to officiate as father, imagining it would be unkind to baulk the doctor in his repetition, by suffering him to want so essential a personage in the ceremony. The captain repeated
those

those parts appointed for the bridegroom, to prove that he did not design to baffle the doctor by the double ceremonial's being omitted. And Juliana pursued each sentence of the voluble ecclesiastic as bride, to shew herself disinterested in the affair. The ceremony was compleated. The captain owned his wager lost, and entreated pardon for having supposed that so compleat a gentleman could be deficient in any point whatever. All things were amicably adjusted, the doctor, after taking leave, retired to his own house, and the captain seemingly to the apartment assigned him at Mr. Placid's; seemingly I say, for if the reader does not already suppose, it may not be improper for me to inform him that he that night took possession of his lovely bride,

The next morning the whole affair was unfolded to the parents; the special licence produced; the validity of the marriage elucidated; and a blessing craved. Mrs. Placid, finding there was no alternative, gave it as her opinion that it would be proper to forgive the young people, as *she* said, for *doing* such a trick, since it could not be *undone*. And Mr. Placid gave it (according to custom) as his opinion, that her opinion was exactly right. A card was then dispatched to Doctor Prig, by which he understood that in the height of his cleverness he had married his intended bride to another. It enraged him so much, to think that a man of his consummate wisdom should be so easily imposed upon, that he fell sick with passion, and did not again ascend the pulpit for upwards of three months, when his flock was edified with several elaborate discourses, tending to censure the army in general and coquets in particular.

A Memorable Instance of real LOVE.

PHILARIO was the son of an English merchant, who had resided long at Cadiz ; he had been sent young to England for the advantage of his education, at the royal college of Eaton, and while there, fell in love with Isabella, the only daughter of a gentleman of good family and estate, who had promised this lady to a distant relation of his own name : but she had an aversion to the proposed match, and openly vowed her passion for Philario, which the father was so far from approving of, that being provoked by her opposition to his orders, he commanded her, under penalty of his displeasure, never more to converse with her lover.

Isabella, notwithstanding this restraint found means to escape, and dressing herself in boy's cloaths, embarked with Philario, in a Spanish ship belonging to Bristol, bound for the Canaries. But alas ! human resolutions are vain. During the voyage they were taken by a Moorish ship belonging to Sallee ; and 'tis easier to conceive than express, the affliction, the despair, the astonishment of Philario. He saw the beloved object of his affections now his partner in slavery, and he suffered more than death, every time that his eyes, all swimming with tears, stole a glance of his beloved Isabella. But what aggravated his sorrow, to the most piercing extremity, was an information he received of his father's death, and that all his effects had been seized by the Spaniards.

They passed about a week with the rest of the ship's company, in a dungeon, where they were in continual expectation of that summons which must separate them for ever. The moon one night shone clearly through the gates of the prison windows, and
Philario,

Philario, whilst the others were a sleep, took notice of something concealed in a corner of the room. He went and pulled it out, and to his great surprise found seventy moidores, besides small pieces.

He approached Isabella, and awaked her in all the extacy of a man who considered himself as distinguished by Providence. He whispered his new hope of an immediate redemption, and found means, by the help of an honest Jew, to be carried to the Alcaid; and trusting his gold with the Israelite, proposed to ransom himself and his beloved Isabella, whom he called his brother: but the conflict of passions had so visible an effect on his looks, that the magistrate took the advantage, and insisted on the whole sum as the ransom for one only, which was offered for both. He bid him name either his brother or himself; but advised him to lose no time, as an English ship was to sail out of the harbour in a few days with ransomed captives. Philario trembled with fear, he knew not what to do; either he must go into slavery himself, or the dear partner of his life must be confined within the walls of a seraglio.

He went out with the Jew, and took a sudden resolution. But what was it? to pay the money for the ransom of Isabella, and remain in slavery himself. He communicated the fatal news to the person dearest to him in the world; but what tongue can express her agony; she fell into strong convulsions; but let mankind attend to the interpositions of Providence.

A Jew had lately arrived from Gibraltar, and having met with his brother Israelite, the conversation turned on the two captives, and it was agreed upon betwixt them to pay the ransom, and accompany the lovers to their native country.

This affair being settled, they arrived in England;

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land; the sons of Jacob were amply rewarded, the young lady was reinstated in possession of her father's fortune, and her husband has now the honour to represent an opulent county in parliament.

The Word BENEFIT of CLERGY explained.

THERE is no word more common in the crown law of England, than benefit of clergy; and none less understood by ordinary readers; but that this legal enigma may no longer be veiled under the obscurity of those dreadful scarecrows, technical terms, we shall present our readers with an account of its origin and import, together with the different restrictions which the statute law has put upon it from time to time.

When the northern barbarians seized on the Roman conquests in Europe, the remains of literature, which those brave people had diffused among their vassals, became obliterated, and an universal darkness overspread the human mind.

The priests were the only people who knew any thing of learning, and that was confined to the outlines of the Aristotelian philosophy, and Latin; and that, the most barbarous sort.

Lord Lyttelton says, that during the reign of Henry II. the clergy had so far discouraged the study of letters among the laity, that the nobility were made to believe, that the only professions becoming their station was military exercises, and warlike courage took place of all those intellectual pleasures which arise from an acquaintance with the Muses. But, however the nobility might despise what they did not understand, yet there is no person in the world, whose knowledge is above

that

that of the rest of mankind, but he will be treated with respect.

The clergy, particularly the monks, were sensible of this, and turned it to their own advantage. It became a principle in the common law of England, that no clerk, i. e., priest, should be tried for any thing criminal by the civil power.

In the reign of Henry II. this abuse had been carried to such an enormous height, that a regulation was necessary to be made; which was done in the famous council or parliament of Clarendon. Notwithstanding such salutary statutes passed into laws, yet the absence of Richard I. from his people, the pusillanimous conduct of John, and his son Henry III, furnished the monks with a second opportunity of establishing their own authority, at the expence of the civil power; and got it enacted, that if any person was tried for felony, and found guilty, if he could read, then he was exempted from punishment. This was the result of the most deliberate consideration; and the clergy had two things in view.

First, The engrossing to their own order, all those who had acquired the least knowledge of letters.

Secondly, The benefit that would recrue to themselves, by teaching prisoners to read.

Of this we have a convincing proof, by the stat. 27. Ed. III. chap. 4. which forbids, under very severe penalties, either clerks, or others, to teach a prisoner to read.

By this time it had got to such an enormous height, that few delinquents could be brought to justice; and had it not been for the unhappy divisions which arose between the families of York and Lancaster, in the succeeding century, perhaps that domineering power of the clergy might have been entirely crushed; but at that time all things

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were reduced to a state of confusion and ignorance, which had long hoodwinked the understanding of mankind, and became more deeply rooted than ever.

In the succeeding age, the invention of printing led men into a free enquiry, concerning the authenticity of disputing points, which brought about our happy reformation.

As the knowledge of literature encreased, the power of the clergy gradually declined into dispute, and by the stat. 2. of Edw. VI. no person convicted of manslaughter shall claim the benefit of clergy, unless he is a peer of the realm, or a clerk in priest's orders; nor can the convict be exempted from being burnt in the hand, unless he produce the patent of his nobility, or certificate of his ordination.

Thus we find the benefit of clergy in some manner abridged; but still it was continued in favour of those who were guilty of common felony, &c. until the ninth of James I. when it is entirely taken away from those delinquents; and provision made, that no person shall claim it more than once.

When our statute laws says, "he shall suffer death without benefit of clergy," many people imagine that it implies he shall not have the assistance of a spiritual guide; but no such thing is meant.

All that the statute implies is only this, that he shall not be entitled to any of those privileges formerly enjoyed by the clergy, and his being able to read, or write, shall not in any manner exempt him from punishment.

N. B. The title, benefit of clergy, was never known in any other of the European nations; and the reason assigned for it by Cowel is, that their laws,

laws, were mostly borrowed from the Justinian Institutions, whereas those of England were founded on ancient custom.

On the Nature of Circumstantial Evidence in Criminal Prosecutions.

“ A person swearing positively to a fact may be deceived, but circumstances cannot err. A person is seen coming out of a house with a bloody knife in his hand. A man is found murdered in the house, and upon enquiry no person was there but he who had the knife, therefore he shall be presumed guilty of murder.”

Baron Mounteney's Speech on the Anglesey Trial, in the Court of Exchequer in Ireland.

ON the 14th of January 1749, Andrew Mire-
lees, tanner, in Leith, near Edinburgh,
went from his own house, about seven o'clock in
the morning, in order to receive some money from a
customer, at Haddington, fifteen miles distant, and
was to return the same day.

Being a person of a very regular conduct, and
little addicted to company, his wife expected him
about six or seven o'clock in the evening, and
although she waited with great impatience till near
twelve, yet he did not arrive.

It is more easy to conceive than describe, what
the nearest relation must feel, when under any
apprehensions for the safety of all that is dear to them
in the world. About one in the morning she and a
servant heard the sound of the horse's feet entering
into the stable-yard, which for the present put an
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end to their anxiety; they immediately went out with lights, the servant to put up the horse, and the wife to meet her beloved husband: but how great was her surprise when they saw the horse stabbed in eight or ten different parts, and (as it really happened) bleeding to death. It is necessary to inform the reader, that the last four miles of the journey is a wild uninhabited common, and formerly noted as the residence of robbers and murderers, and to this day there is an empty cottage standing on it called the Loons lodge, i. e. the thief's lodge. The wife and servant concluded, that Mr. Mirelees was murdered.

In the morning the wife went to Edinburgh, and gave information to the chief justice, who immediately issued a proclamation, with a reward for apprehending the villains. Officers, and many people from curiosity went to the common, thinking to find the body of the deceased, and after some time spent in searching, they saw his mastiff dog, who had followed him, lying among some furz, and stabbed almost in the same manner as the horse. Accordingly there was not the least doubt remaining of his being murdered, and therefore they continued their search in quest of the body. They had proceeded only a little further when they met two chairmen quite drunk, carrying a sedan, in which was a horseman's coat and some other things. Almost every person becomes an object of suspicion, when a crime of so atrocious a nature as murder is committed; they were therefore seized, and upon examination the riding coat of Mr. Mirelees, together with his hat, wig, spurs, and whip, were all found in the chair, and the coat in particular was extremely bloody. The chairmen's pockets were searched, when a large clasp knife was found, which tally'd exactly with the wounds which the dog and the horse had received, and

and the knife was likewise in many parts covered with blood.

Whilst the chairmen were searching, it happened that one of the judges (lord Elches) was returning to town, from his seat at Carberry, a few miles distant. He stopped to enquire why so many people were assembled, and being told the above particulars, he committed them both to prison. They were again examined next day, when they were sober; and all they could say in their defence was, that they had carried a sick person to a town called Musselburgh, and having received more than their fare had spent it along with some people (strangers) who kept them drinking till morning, and that they found the coat, &c. of the deceased, as they were returning to town. Upon further examination it appeared, that the first part of their story was true, viz. that they had carried a sick person from Edinburgh at the time they mentioned, and also that they had received something to spend; but as to the other part, although there were but few publick houses on the road, yet every one of the landlords denied their having ever seen them; they were therefore both committed to prison to be tried for the murder of Mr. Mirelees, and one of them died a few days after, and his wife and three children were sent to the workhouse.

During this time diligent search was made, although in vain, for the body of the deceased, and his afflicted wife offered a reward of five guineas, to any one who could discover where it was concealed; but it was ineffectual. Upon inquiry it was found that Mr. Mirelees had dined at Hadington, where he received 22l. and that he set off for home (as he said) about three o'clock in the afternoon; that about half past five he called at a public house

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at Muffelburgh, and drank some brandy and water, but not one person could trace him any further, although this was within five miles of his own house. Things remained in this condition about five weeks, when the following discovery was made. A tradesman who lived in Edinburgh, was returning from Sheffield, where he had been purchasing goods, and called to dine at an inn in Leeds, the first person he saw, as he passed through the kitchen, was Mr. Mirelees, sitting very contentedly smoking his pipe. One may easily guess what was his surprise, and it was some time before he could be persuaded that what he saw was not an apparition. However, he was soon relieved from his terror, by his old friend calling him by his name, "How do you do, Mr. Burton?" Mr. Burton immediately hired a post chaise, and in a few days after they arrived at Edinburgh, and Mr. Mirelees went next day before a magistrate, and swore to the following particulars, viz. that after he left Muffelburgh he was met by two gentlemen in a post chaise, who ordered him to stop; and he making some resistance, they stabbed his horse and his dog, and, by force, dragged him into the carriage; that they halted at several towns on the road, to change horses, but would not suffer him to come out of the chaise, nor did he ever know where he was till they told him he was at the Black Swan, in York. That they kept him confined at that inn three days, and afterwards carried him from thence at midnight, and set him down in the midst of a forest, and that he never saw them afterwards; that they did not demand any of his money, but treated him with whatever they had for themselves. This affidavit being signed, he was dismissed, and the chairman discharged; but a copy of it being sent to the chief justice, who was then on the circuit, a warrant was granted by his lordship to apprehend him

him as an impostor; but notice being sent him before it was executed, he got on board a ship bound for Camphere in Zealand, where I saw him in April, 1756. As he was not in Britain, and consequently in safety, I asked him his reasons for acting in such a manner, but he refused to give me any answer, and, indeed, it remains (so far as I know) a secret to this day; but let both judges and juries learn, that where any case is dubious, altho' supported by a variety of circumstances, that it is their indispensable duty to find a verdict in favour of the prisoner.

P. S. I mentioned above, that the chairmen could not tell what house they had been drinking in, and that the company were strangers. The truth was, that they had been met by a party of smugglers, who led them not to a publick, but a private house, kept by one of the gang.

VIRTUE triumphing over OPPRESSION.

LEGALIS was the son of a country gentleman, who gave him a liberal education, and afterwards placed him in Gray's-Inn, as clerk to an eminent solicitor in Chancery. When his clerkship was expired he took chambers, and by an obliging behaviour to his clients, soon rose to very considerable practice.

Legalis paid his addresses to Octavia, a young lady of great virtue and beauty, whom he afterwards married, and with whom he lived in a state of the greatest felicity; their affections being cemented by real friendship, and their wishes crowned in the birth of a daughter, and about two years after a son.

Whilst Legalis was daily engaged in his office,
con-

conducting the business of his clients, his wife dedicated the greatest part of her time to the education of her daughter Sophia; the son Eugenius being sent to a reputable boarding-school at Richmond; but this was a state of too great happiness to remain uninterrupted. Octavia was seized with a violent fever, which terminated in her death, after she had been married about twelve years.

Legalis remained inconsolable for the loss of his beloved wife, nor did he think of entering into that state a second time, during some years afterwards; but at last he courted the daughter of a serjeant at law, whom he soon after married, and from that period these misfortunes commenced which we are about to relate.

Sophia, who had lived with her father ever since her mother's death, was now about seventeen, and endowed with all those charms, which render their impression irresistible; nor did her chief perfections consist only in her exterior appearance, her mind was equally adorned by polite education. Besides being well acquainted with the best English authors, she had learned French and Italian. With all those accomplishments, it is no way surprising that she attracted the notice of the young gentlemen in the neighbourhood, among whom was the only son of an eminent merchant, as much celebrated for his many virtues as affluence in his circumstances, having been left in the possession of a valuable estate, by an uncle who died in the East-Indies. The consent of Legalis was soon obtained, and every thing settled for the approaching nuptials, when behold the instability of human expectations; a few days before the intended marriage, the bridegroom was seized with the small-pox, and died within a week after.

To attempt the description of what Sophia suffered

from an event so little expected, would require the pen of a Shakespear, or a Thompson, and therefore we shall rather imitate the painter of old, who when he found himself incapable of describing the sufferings of Agamemnon, drew a veil over the countenance of the hero. But Sophia had other afflictions to contend with. Her step-mother was of a temper and disposition quite the reverse of her own. She could not endure to hear her daughter-in-law praised for her accomplishments, whilst little notice was taken of herself; she took every opportunity of mortifying her, and even carried her inveterate malice so far as to command the young lady to act as a menial servant.

Sophia had long borne with many indignities, and had even concealed them from her father, rather than disturb the peace of the family; but an incident which happened at this time, awakened in her mind a just indignation against the cruelty of her step-mother, and the unnatural conduct of her father, who was become so uxorious, as to countenance every thing done by his spouse. Eugenius was just returned from the boarding-school, with accomplishments suited for a genteel station in life: his sister had not communicated to him an account of those indignities which she had suffered. No sooner had he seen his sister acting as a menial servant, in the place where she used to have one of that character to attend her, than he went and expostulated with his father, and represented unto him the impropriety of his conduct, in not exerting his authority in his own house. But he was too late; his father was entirely under the direction of his spouse; and in a few days after was seized with an apoplectic fit as he was returning from Lincoln's-inn-hall, and carried home dead. It is a common observation, that gentlemen of the law are careful
in

in the distribution of their fortunes; and in some measure it may be said, that Legalis adhered to that maxim; for as soon as his will was opened, one hundred pounds was left to each of his children, and the whole remainder to his beloved wife, who soon after gave her hand, and what was much more valuable, her fortune, to a young cornet of dragoons, who, to save appearances, took her with him to his regiment in Ireland, where madam learned that she had got a master under the endearing name of a husband. But to return to Eugenius and Sophia. When they heard the contents of the will, horror at the thoughts of approaching poverty, and surprize at the conduct of a once indulgent parent, seized their minds; however, that virtuous education which they had received, and particularly those religious sentiments which they had learned from their mother, taught them resignation to the divine will, and to seek for some employment whereby they might procure a subsistence. For that purpose Eugenius embarked for the East-Indies, where we shall leave him and return to Sophia.

The young lady took leave of her brother in the most affectionate manner, and divesting herself of all pretensions to that of a servant, was admitted as companion to an aged lady in Wiltshire. But as if misfortune was still to attend her, she had only been a few months in her new station, when her lady's only son returned from Oxford, to take leave of his mother before he went to make the tour of Europe.

When beauty, adorned with education and virtue, meet in the same person, particularly female) their charms must always be irresistible. Our young gentleman had been only a few weeks at his mother's, when the appearance, behaviour and conversation of Sophia made a strong impression on his mind; and

although he was afraid to mention his passion to any of his relations, yet it was not long before his mother suspected his designs, and Sophia was turned away, upon pretence of her endeavouring to impose on the young heir.

Deprived of the benefit of an asylum, where she thought to enjoy uninterrupted tranquility, she once more returned to London, to the house of a woman who had formerly lived as a servant with her father and to whom her afflictions were well known. Here she remained above two years, taking in plain work from persons in the neighbourhood; and fully determined never to admit the addresses of any man for the future.

But human resolutions are vain, and there is sometimes a latent principle in the mind, which nature will draw forth to action.

One day as she was walking in a solitary manner in Westminster-abbey, a gentleman in deep mourning seemed to view her with great attention, and at last asked her whether her name was Sophia—she answered with a blush, and attempted to retire, but the gentleman insisted on seeing her to her lodgings; but how great was her surprize, when she recollected that the gentleman was the son of her old lady in Wiltshire. He told her that his mother was lately dead, and that he was now in possession of his father's estate; that he had enquired for her in every part of London, but could not procure any intelligence; that he was determined never to marry, unless she gave him her hand. An eclairsissement ensued, and in a few weeks Sophia was the happy wife of a gentleman of fortune; and depressed virtue was rewarded by that Being who superintends the affairs of this world.

About six months after her marriage, Eugenius arrived from India, where he had acquired a very con-

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considerable fortune, and now resides along with his sister and brother-in-law. Thus we see that virtue will always be rewarded either in time or eternity; and let young ladies remember, that their future happiness in life, depends on their rejecting a momentary gratification.

The FEMALE IMPOSTOR.

A KING of Persia, who was in the sixty-third year of his age, grew so doatingly fond of one of his concubines, a fair Circassian named Roxana, that he obliged himself, by a solemn oath, never to refuse her any thing she would request of him. The lady made her advantage of this monarch's weakness, and every day, by some new and extravagant demand, took occasion to gratify her ambition, her avarice, or her revenge. During the career of her power, a certain European merchant, who had sold her some jewels, in order to engage her interest at court made her a present of a beautiful little dog, which had been taught to dance, and play a thousand antick tricks. In a short time, Roxana became as fond of her dog, as the king was of her; only she lamented, that the little creature was not endowed with speech, and could not therefore make a proper reply to those endearing expressions she used as often as she caressed him. One of her eunuchs, then present, told her, she need not grieve on this account; for he knew a philosopher, named Hali, then living in the suburbs of Ispahan, who could teach her dog to speak the Persian language as articulately as he spoke it himself. Hali was immediately sent for, made acquainted with his business, and required to attend the next morning to give the dog his first lesson. It was in vain for the poor man to

remonstrate against the possibility of such an undertaking. He was answered it was the king's command, and must not be disputed : that if he performed it in thirty days, he should be amply rewarded : if he failed he should lose his head.

Hali, we may imagine, considered the king's command as the artifice of his enemies, and as a trap laid for his life. He communicated his distress to his eldest son, a youth of nineteen, of a ready wit and excellent parts, a most engaging manner of address, a great sweetness of temper, and a beautiful person. Mirza (for that was his name) burst into tears when he heard the king's orders ; but immediately recovering himself, he told his father he had thought of a certain method to divert the danger.

For this purpose, he desired Hali to present him the next morning to the chief eunuch, as his daughter, and as a person well instructed in her father's art, and who would engage, at the hazard of her own life, as well as his, to execute the king's injunction. Hali looked upon his son with amazement, and persuading himself, that he spoke by the inspiration of the prophet, he made no difficulty of complying with young Mirza's request.

Accordingly, next morning, Mirza, disguised in a virgin's habit, was conducted to the chief eunuch, and by him led into Roxana's apartment ; where he performed his part so well, that, before the month expired, it was reported all over the seraglio, that the philosopher's daughter had taught the little dog not only to speak, but to speak like a wise man, and answer pertinently to every question. The king would needs be assured of the truth of this prodigy. He made a visit to his favourite. She confirmed the report ; and the dog, being presented to him, was commanded to give a proof of his extraordinary talents,

talents, by answering respectfully whatever the king should be pleased to ask him.

The monarch seated himself on a sofa, and taking the dog in his arms, gently stroked his head, and then proposed this question; say, thou pretty animal, who am I; After a short silence, Roxana entreated the king to tell her, if he was not highly delighted with the answer which the little beast had made him? and whether he could ever have believed the thing, if he had not heard it? The king protested he had never heard a word. At which Roxana seemed much concerned, and looking earnestly in the king's face, demanded again, if his majesty had not heard the dog answer him in the words following? "You are the son of the sun, the lieutenant of the prophets, and the king of kings; you are dreaded by your enemies, adored by your subjects, and passionately beloved by my fair mistress."

The king of Persia rose up amazed and confounded; but still insisting he did not hear the dog speak, Roxana lifted up her hands, and thus addressed herself to Mahomet. "Thou messenger of God, protect and defend the king. Increase his honour, lengthen his life, preserve his understanding, and open his ears; O never let him feel the infirmities of old age." Then the dog being ordered to speak a little louder, she begged the king to make a second trial, which he did with great success. For he now declared, he heard the little creature distinctly utter every word, just as Roxana had before repeated.

This occasioned an universal joy in the seraglio. Nothing was talked of for some days but the speaking dog. His answer to the king was written in letters of gold, and preserved in the archives of the empire. The pretended daughter of Hali was dismissed with a noble reward; and her father was

afterwards promoted to one of the best governments in Persia.

The author of this tale concludes it with the following reflection. Old age very seldom proves a blessing to great men, especially to those who have any share in the government of the world. The Persian monarch, who ruled so many nations, and esteemed himself a favourite of heaven, and the first man in the universe, was not permitted the use of his eyes or ears. He was the dupe of his slave, and the jest of his whole court, but no one durst tell him so ; and he died without knowing it.

Luxury in Eating condemn'd. A PERSIAN Story.

SCHAH Abbas, at the beginning of his reign, was more luxurious than became so great a prince : one might have judged of the vastness of his empire by the variety of dishes at his table ; some were sent him from Tigris ; some from Euphrates ; others from Oxus and the Caspian sea : one day when he gave a dinner to his nobles, Mahomet Ali, keeper of the three tombs, was placed next to the best dish of all the feast, out of respect for the sanctity of his office ; but instead of falling to eating heartily, as holy men are wont to do, he fetched a dismal groan and fell a weeping. Schah Abbas, surprized at his behaviour, desired him to explain it to the company ; he would fain have been excused, but the Sophi ordered him on pain of displeasure to acquaint him with the cause of his disorder.

“ Know then, said he, O monarch of the earth, that when I saw thy table covered in this manner, it brought to my mind a dream or rather a vision, which was sent me from the prophet whom I serve.

“ On the seventh night of the moon Rhamazan, I
was

was sleeping under the shade of the sacred tombs, when, methought, the holy ravens of the sanctuary bore me up on their wings into the air, and in a few moments conveyed me to the lowest heavens, where the messenger of God, on whom be peace, was sitting in his luminous tribunal, to receive petitions from the earth. Around him stood an infinite throng of animals, of every species and quality, which all joined in preferring a complaint against the Schah Abbas for destroying them wantonly and tyrannically, beyond what any necessity could justify, or any natural appetite demand.

“ It was alledged by them, that ten or twelve of them were often murdered to compose one dish for niceness of thy palate ; some gave their tongues only, some their bowels, some their fat, and others their brains or blood. In short, they declared such constant waste was made of them, that unless a stop was put to it in time, they should perish entirely by gluttony. The prophet hearing this, bent his brows, and ordered six vultures to fetch thee alive before him. They instantly brought thee to his tribunal, where he commanded thy stomach to be opened, to see whether it was bigger or more capacious than those of other men ; when it was found to be just of the common size, he permitted all the animals to make reprisals on the body of their destroyer ; but before one in ten thousand could get at thee, every particle of it was devoured ; so ill-proportioned was the offender to the offence.

This story made such an impression on the Sophi, that he would not suffer above one dish of meat to be brought to his table ever after.

The Picture of GOOD-MANNERS.

NOTHING is unworthy of publication which may convey a useful lesson to mankind. Sir William Gooch being in conversation with a gentleman in the city of Williamsburgh, returned the salute of a negro, who was passing by about his master's business. Sir, said the gentleman, does your honour descend so far as to salute a slave? Why (replied the governor) yes; I cannot suffer a man of his condition to exceed me in good manners.

Never was reprimand more delicate.

F INSTANCE OF ARROGANCE.

SESOSTRIS, a king of Egypt, whose pride and ambition carried him to the utmost extent, obliged four or more of his tributary kings to be yoked in his chariot, and to draw him, instead of horses, on certain occasions; but he was cured of that piece of arrogance before he died, by a keen reflection of one of those kings, whom observing with great steadfastness, looking back upon the wheel, Sesostris asked the subject of his thoughts on that occasion, to which the tributary prince replied, "The going round of the wheel, O, king! calls to my mind the vicissitudes of fortune; for as every part of the wheel is uppermost and lowermost by turns, so it is with kings, who one day sit on the throne, and on the next are reduced to the lowest degree of slavery." This wrought so upon the king, that he left off the inhuman practice of subjugating mankind to the yoke ever after.

The

The MAGIC COMBAT, or the Power of BEAUTY.

A FAIRY TALE.

IN Hamah, a city of Syria, which was formerly governed by its own princes, resided Aboucasar and Dakianos, who both were equally knowing in the arts of magic, and whose power was equally supported by the assistance of genii and ministering spirits; they were both in high credit with the prince who then sat upon the throne, but their views were opposite, and a rivalry subsisted between them as is usual at courts. The prince was then in the bloom of youth, and the chief point contested between the two magicians was, who should be admitted to the honour of being his favourite mistress or Sultana. The visir and Aboucasar espoused the cause of Selima, whose person was graceful and majestic, whilst her deportment was easy and obliging. Dakianos, on the contrary, supported the interest of Fiteah, the daughter of a nobleman of Damascus, whose beauty had made such a noise in the world, that Omar, who was then prince of Hamah, had conceived an ardent desire to see her, though he had a strong passion for Selima. The first step which Dakianos took, in order to effect his purpose, was to employ the spirit Uriel, who being possessed of a secret to render himself invisible, and could find access every where, to go to Damascus and fetch from thence the picture of Fiteah. Aboucasar receiving notice of this, had recourse to his magic power, and upon receiving it from the prince, who was surprised at a view of such beauties, contemplated it for some time, and then returned it, saying, "the features at first appeared striking, but upon a closer view, he could discover several considerable defects in them." The prince, upon re-

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considering the portrait, agreed with Aboucasar ; for the magician, by dissolving a little powder in the air had made the colours fade, and rendered the expression languid. Hereupon the prince's curiosity abated ; but being soon excited again by Dakianos, who found means to represent the figure of Fiteah to him in a dream, he grew so impatient to see her, that he could not rest till she arrived at Hamah. When first he saw her, her beauty made a lively impression on his senses ; but his heart was still so far disengaged, that he remained a long time in suspense between Selima and Fiteah, according as the magic of beauty in each, seconded by the magic of their respective abettors, operated upon his mind which had not yet felt the influence of a real passion. However, the livelier charms of Fiteah were upon the point of prevailing over the more faint attractions of Selima, when Aboucasar called to his assistance a gnome of a malevolent nature, whose interposition has often proved destructive to the charms of beauty. The name of this gnome is Affection, who, assuming the form of one of Fiteah's women ; by her prattle and officiousness, and still more by her censoriousness, insinuated herself into the good graces of her mistress, whose favour she acquired by setting all the other women of the Haram in the most contemptible and ridiculous light imaginable, and at the same time representing all her own perfections and excellencies. This expedient had like to have been crowned with success: the eyes of Fiteah, whose dazzling beauties before surprized all beholders, were now rolled into a squint ; and her voice, whose harmony exceeded the warbling of birds who fill the spicy groves of Syria with their notes, had acquired tones that could not fail to disgust the judicious. Omar perceived the change, and quickly transferred his love to

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Selima, but still was with-held from giving her that place he resolved to bestow only on the mistress of his heart : and though he was not insensible to the power of her beauty, he could not yet resolve to decide in her favour. Dakianos, finding himself again baffled, contrived by his art a mirror, whose virtue was such, that it could not be sullied even by self-love, but shewed every object through the medium of truth. No sooner had Fiteah beheld herself therein, but the airs which she had practised excited her utmost contempt, and she again assumed a behaviour that soon attracted the notice of the prince, who for a time attached himself to her ; whilst Selima repined with secret jealousy, and Aboucasar lamented the inefficacy of his art. The life of Omar and Fiteah for some time passed in all the excesses of voluptuousness and sensual enjoyment ; but languor soon invaded the heart of the prince, and the ease with which his pleasures were acquired, rendered them tasteless and insipid. While he was one day lolling in indolence upon a sofa, a being appeared before him, whose transcendent beauty struck him with surprize. As soon as the effect which this ravishing vision had produced on him was subsided, he heard himself addressed in these words : “ Omar, ’tis from me alone that you can hope to obtain what you have long sought for. I am the power that preside over love-affairs. If mortals represent me with wings, ’tis owing to their own inconstancy, my influence is permanent and lasting. Palaces could not furnish you with a perfect beauty, a rural cottage shall afford what they denied you.” The vision immediately disappeared, and these words made such an impression upon Omar, that from henceforward he addicted himself to hunting, hoping to meet with perfect beauty in the woods and fields, entirely neglecting
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all the ladies of his court. The power of love did not prove deceitful; some moons after, when fatigued with hunting, he was obliged to seek refreshment at the cottage of the shepherd Keschetiouch, he beheld his daughter Zezbet, and from the resemblance of her features to those of the apparition he had beheld, perceived that she was the person intended for him: he immediately carried her to court, declared her Sultana, and ever after lived with her in perfect happiness. Thus were the united efforts of two powerful magicians defeated by the power of beauty.

THE RIVAL BROTHERS.

MANY arguments taken from the deductions of abstract reason have been urged against the inhuman practice of fighting duels; but examples prove more forcible than speculation. Maxims, however just, and moral reflections, though founded on truth, are incapable of conveying that conviction, which an instance from real life cannot fail to produce. Urged by this consideration, I communicate to you the following tragical event; and hope that such an example may contribute to make men look upon this barbarous custom with the detestation it deserves.

A gentleman of vast fortune in New England, had two sons, whose real names I shall beg leave to conceal under those of Nicanor and Philotas. Nicanor was in his early youth sent over to England to be educated, and there remained till the death of his father; when finding himself possessed of a vast fortune, he immediately resolved to make the tour of Europe. Nothing very remarkable happened to him in the course of his travels; till at Rome, he
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attached himself to a courtezan with as much ardour as the young lover in Terence discovers for his Thoris. He spared nothing to gratify her vanity and voluptuous inclinations and such was her art, that she found means to persuade him that he alone received her favours, though he really shared them with many rivals, who were equally well received, as they contributed to cram the avarice of Camilla, for that was the name she went by. Nicanor's servant, Parmeno, who was of a character as prudent and thrifty, as his master was extravagant and indiscreet, with grief saw the great expence to which the latter put himself, and carefully watched for an occasion to detect Camilla in some intrigue, in order thereby to alienate the affections of his master from her; many such opportunities offered; but Camilla, whose address was not to be surpassed, found means constantly to give such a turn to events, as to persuade Nicanor that he was imposed upon. Camilla suspected that Parmeno had done her ill offices with his master, and therefore exerted all her arts of persuasion to such a degree, that she at last prevailed upon Nicanor to discharge him. Parmenio was soon after taken into service by an English gentlemen, who went by the name of Trueman.

Mr. Trueman in a short time discovered that Parmeno had great abilities for carrying on an intrigue, and as he had seen Camilla, and was smitten with her beauty, he employed him to carry letters to her, till she at last consented to an interview with him at a certain house: not far distant from il Porto del Popolo. Parmenio, who was still attached to his old master, immediately acquainted him with this assignation; and having brought him to the place, Nicanor, who no longer doubted of the infidelity of his mistress, called his rival out, and soon gave him a mortal wound; but how great was his horror

horror and surprize, when he, a few days after, discovered by a letter delivered to him by Parmeno, which the diseased had by mistake given to his servant, instead of one addressed to Camilla, that he had killed his own brother. Philotas had concealed his name on account of an affair of honour, which obliged him to quit Florence, where he was known, and go to Rome. Nicanor was so shocked at the fatal discovery, that he immediately shot his servant Parmeno, and himself afterwards. Such are the dreadful consequences which flow from this barbarous custom here; but the thoughts of what they may occasion hereafter, must fill every true christian with terror and consternation.

The Character of a MAID'S HUSBAND.

THOUGH the male part of the creation usurp a pre-eminence over us poor women, I am determined in all matters wherein my happiness and interest depend, to judge for myself; nor would be persuaded contrary to the conviction of my own mind, by the wisest man upon earth. I have no antipathy to mankind, nor aversion to the married state; but as sensual enjoyments, I am assured are not sufficient, to render connubial happiness permanent and lasting, I have not yet ventured to enter on it, and for this plain reason; because I have not yet had a suitor, whose mental accomplishments have been in any respect adequate to what I expect in a husband. Waving agology, I here send you the portrait of this man as to mind and person; who may command my hand and heart; presuming that it may answer a valuable purpose and conduce to my future felicity, as well as that of one who is so justly entitled to every blessing life can afford.

His

His person must be graceful and engaging: his behaviour must be serious, but natural, which is neither too open nor too reserved: his laugh, his speech, his action, and his whole manner, must be just without affectation, and free without levity. His genius and his knowledge must be extensive; not skilled in one science, yet ignorant of all others; not conversant in books, yet knowing nothing of mankind; not a mere scholar, a mere soldier, or a mere pretty fellow; but learning, freedom and gallantry must so nicely be mingled together that I might always find in him an improving friend, a gay companion, and an amusing gallant. His soul must be generous without prodigality, humane without weakness, just without severity, and fond without folly. To his wife endearing, to his children affectionate, to his friends warm, to all mankind benevolent: nature and reason must join their powers, and to the openness of his heart add œconomy, making him careful without avarice, and giving a kind of unconcernedness without negligence. The charm which is to be considered before all the rest still remains unspeakable: he must have what is so very scarce in the libertine age, religion; but though devout he must not be superstitious, though good, not melancholy; far from that unhappy infirmity which makes men uncharitable bigots, averse to that severe temper which insensibly diffuses into the heart of man a morose contempt of the world, and an antipathy to the lawful pleasures of it.

If any man will give proof, that he possesses these qualities, my fortune, which is very considerable, and my person shall be his, though I fear I have described a thing out of nature! So that not to be too rigid, I am willing to make a reasonable abatement, provided it be not in any of the most essential articles.

The

The PRUDENT WIFE.

A Gentleman of a very ancient family, and considerable estate, was married to a lady of beauty wit, virtue and good humour ; but, though he knew and acknowledged the merits of his wife, yet he was a man of so depraved a taste, that the most dirty creature he could pick up, frequently supplied her place.

It happened when they were at their countryseat, that riding one morning to take the air, as was his usual custom, he met a ragged country-wench, with a pair of wallets, or coarse linen bags, thrown over her shoulder. He stopped his horse, and asked what she had got there ? to which she replied, with a low curtsy after her fashion, that it was broken victuals ; that her mother and she had no sustenance, but what they got from the charity of the cooks at great gentlemen's houses ; and that she was going home with what they had given her. You need not be in haste, I suppose, said he ; if you will step with me into yonder field, I will give you something to buy you a new gown.

The poor girl needed not much persuasion to bring her to consent, on which he alighted from his horse, and threw the bridle over a hedge-stake. The girl at the same time hung her bags on the pommel of the saddle, to prevent their coming to any harm. She then followed the gentleman a little way out of the road.

The horse not liking his situation, found means to get loose, and ran directly home ;—the lady by chance

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chance was at the window when he came galloping into the court yard ;—she was at first a little frightened to see him without his rider ; but perceiving the bags, she called to have them brought to her, and on their being so, was not long at a loss to guess the meaning of this adventure.

She then ordered the cook to empty the wallets, and put whatever she found in them into a clean dish, and send it up in the first course that day at dinner : which accordingly was done.

The husband on missing his horse walked home, and brought with him two neighbouring gentlemen whom he accidentally met with in his way. But the guests did not prevent the lady from prosecuting her intention.—The beggar's provision was set upon the table,—remnants of stale fowls,—bones half picked,—pieces of beef,—mutton,—lamb,—veal, with several lumps of bread, promiscuously huddled together, made a very comical appearance.—Every one presently had his eyes upon this dish, and the husband, not knowing what to make of it, cried out pretty hastily,—“What's this ! What have we got here ?” To which the lady with the greatest gaiety replied, “It is a new fashioned olio, my dear ; it wants no variety ; I think there is a little of every thing, and I hope you will eat hartily of it, as it is a dish of your own providing.”

The significant smile which accompanied these last words, as well as the tone of voice in which they were spoke, making him remember where the girl had hung her wallets, threw him into a good deal of confusion ; which she perceiving, ordered the dish to be taken away, and said, “I see you do not like it my dear, therefore, when next you go to market, pray be a better caterer.”—“Forgive this,” cried he, “and I promise never to go to any such markets more.

The

The gentlemen found there was some mystery, but would not be so free as to desire an explanation. When dinner was over, however, and the lady, after behaving the whole time with all the chearfulness imaginable, had retired to leave them to their bottle, the husband made no scruple of relating to them by what means his table had been furnished with a dish of so particular a kind; at which they laughed very heartily, and would have done so much more, if their admiration of the lady's wit and good humour, had not almost entirely engrossed their attention.

We cannot help admiring the great command which the lady had of her temper. Female passions are of all others the most violent, even in ordinary matters; but when hated by jealousy, are almost ungovernable, and often attended with fatal consequences. But how much more prudent is it for the ladies to endeavour to reclaim their husbands by gentle measures, than by giving way to the fury of ungovernable passion, drive them to seek (as it were) an assylum among those who first tempted them from the paths of virtue?

A METHOD of learning Six Languages in Six Hours.

SINCE the cultivation of the mind is the most important pursuit which ought to engage the attention of man, those certainly deserve public applause who facilitate the improvement of the intellects.

We have long been deceived by a parcel of jugglers called *men of genius*, and *men of learning*, who pretend that the acquisition of languages, arts, and sciences is a very difficult matter. Mr. Pope,
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an impostor of the highest reputation, goes so far as to assert that,

“ One science only will one genius fit,

“ So vast is art, so narrow human wit.”

But to the disproof of such *dullard scarce arguments*, some ingenious gentlemen have lately discovered a curious method of teaching writing in eighteen hours, navigation in thirty hours, the four first rules of arithmetic in four hours, and other arts and sciences in a space of time proportionably short, though some malignant fellows, termed men of sense, pretend that their advertisements are mere fallacies; as for example, with respect to the art of writing, they insist that these honest instructors divide the eighteen hours into quarters, two only of which they weekly allot to the instructions of the pupil, by which means he is just nine months instead of eighteen hours under tuition, and at the expiration of the time incapable of writing a receipt, or giving a note of hand. But I am not of a credulous temper, I do not believe all these men of sense tell me; but be it as it may, what I have to propose will certainly be of great use to people of narrow capacities, and short memories, and to such as have but little leisure for liberal pursuits. It is a method by which any person may learn six languages in the space of six hours. I shall not trouble my pupils with grammatical niceties, they have no occasion to fatigue their minds with critical distinctions between substantives and adjectives, verbs and participles; but, a few plain principles, easy to learn, and easy to retain, are all they will have occasion to study; but to the purpose.

To learn *Welch* make all things animate and inanimate of the feminine gender thus, call a man or a bull, *hur*, change all *d*'s into *t*'s, as for *Davy*, say *Tavy*, and all *b*'s into *p*'s, as for *beggar*, say *peggar*,
for

for *blood*, say *plood*, and use the word *was* for all tenses whatever, and leave out the letter *w* in all proper names, as for *woman* and *world*, say *'oman*, and *'orld*.

To learn *Irish*, begin every sentence with *arrah* honey, or *arrah* dear joy; change *g* into *j*, as for *gentleman*, say *jontleman*, and put *h* afters *f* wherever it occurs, as for *soul* say *shoul*; *a* for *ei*, as *taxe* for *teize*.

To learn *Scotch*, turn *e* into *a*, *i* into *e* and *o* into *a*, as for *when* say *whan*, for *pit*, say *pet*, for *soul*, say *saul*, for *vi* put *e*, as for *devil*, say *de'el*; and be sure always to speak very broad, and drawl very much.

To speak *French*, put all your accents on the last syllable, and say *me* for *I*, and *one* for *a*, as for example, *I will give you a guinea*, in French will be *me will give you one guinea*.

To learn *Dutch*, put *d* for *th*, and *t* for *th*, as for *this*, *dis*, for *that*, *dat*, and for *third*, *turd*, say *yaw* for *yes*, and call all women, *fiows*.

To learn *Latin*, end all your words with *i*, *o*, *um*, or *am*, as for example, for *fight you dog*, *fight till you drop*, say *fightum dogi*, *fightum tillio dropum*, or as the boy translated to his father in a distich, the names of a rusty sword, a barrel of tar, a carpet, and a battle between two magpyes,

“Rusty Tusty, Tarbarril

“Carpitorum, Pyebattil.”

By this ingenious method a person who has no more brains than a *Duke*, may become a compleat linguist, and appear as conspicuous in courts, as many who at present adorn them.

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A CHINESE TALE.

THE ancient Takupi had long been prime Minister to the Queen of Yawaqua, a fertile country, that stretches along the western confines of China. During his administration, whatever advantages could be derived from arts, learning and commerce, seem to bless the people, nor were the necessary precautions of providing for the security of the state forgotten. It often happens, however, that when men are possessed of all they want, they then begin to find torments from imaginary afflictions, and lessen their immediate enjoyments, by forboding that those enjoyments are to have an end. The people now therefore cast about to find out grievances, and after some search, they actually began to fancy themselves aggrieved. A petition against the enormities of Takupi was carried to the throne in due form; and the Queen, willing to satisfy her subjects, appointed a day, in which his excusers should be heard, and the minister should stand upon his defence.

The day being arrived, and the minister brought before the tribunal, three accusers of principal note appeared from among the number.

The first was a carrier, who supplied the city with fish. He deposed that it was the custom, time immemorial, for carriers to bring their fish upon a hamper, which being placed on one side, and balanced by a stone of equal weight on the other, the load was thus conveyed with ease and safety; but that the prisoner, moved either by a malicious spirit of innovation, or perhaps bribed by the company of hamper-makers, had obliged all carriers to take down the stone, and in its place to put up another hamper,

hamper, to the opposite side, entirely repugnant to the customs of all antiquity, and those of the kingdom of Yawaqua in particular.

The carrier finished; and the whole court began to shake their heads at the innovating minister, when the second witness appeared. He was inspector of the buildings of the city, and accused the disgraced favourite of having given orders for the demolition of an ancient ruin, which happened only to obstruct the passage through a principal street of the city. He observed that such buildings were noble monuments of barbarous antiquity, and contributed finely to shew how little their ancestors understood architecture, and for that reason they should be held sacred and suffered gradually to decay.

The third and last witness now appeared; this was a widow, who had laudably attempted to burn herself upon her husband's funeral pile. She had only attempted, for the innovating minister had prevented the execution of her design, and was insensible to all her tears, protestations and intreaties.

The Queen could have pardoned his two former offences, but this was considered as so gross an injury to the sex, and so directly contrary to all the customs of antiquity, that it called for immediate justice. "What," cries the Queen, "not suffer a woman to burn herself when she has a mind! a very pretty minister truly. A poor woman cannot go peaceably, and throw herself into the fire, but he must intermeddle; very fine indeed! the sex are to be very prettily tutored no doubt if they must be restrained from entertaining their female friends now and then with a roasted acquaintance. I sentence the criminal at the bar, for his injurious treatment of the sex, to be banished my presence for ever."

Takupi

Takupi had been hitherto silent, and began to speak only to shew the sincerity of his resignation. "I acknowledge," cried he, "my crime, and since I am to be banished, I beg it may be to some ruined town or desolate village, in the country I have governed." His request appearing reasonable, it was immediately complied with ; and a courtier had orders to fix upon a place of banishment, answering the minister's description. After some months search, however, the enquiry proved fruitless, neither a desolate village, nor a ruined town was found in the whole kingdom. "Alas, said Takupi to the queen, how can that country be ill governed, which has neither a desolate village, nor a ruined town in it?" The queen perceived the justice of his remark, and received the minister into more than former favour.

A JUST OBSERVATION.

ONE who was well acquainted with London, observed, that the children born in town, were usually of a forward and lively wit, till they came to be about ten or twelve years of age ; but that country lads, on the contraay, were dull of understanding, and made their acquisitions by slow degrees ; "The consequence of which is," continued he, "that if we examine the best shops in London, we shall find them tenanted by persons out of the country, whilst the garrets are filled with natives."



The HAPPINESS of a Virtuous LIFE.

IN a lovely valley between the chalky cliffs of Chaldee, watered by a perennial stream from the ancient Euphrates, Barcas, descended from the patriarchs of old, had pitched his tent. A towering oak, venerable with age, the shadow of whose spreading branches offered a cooling retreat from the noontide rays, stood before them; and behind them a lofty grove of citrons and pomegranates, delighted the eyes of the traveller, and gave its spicy odours to the fluttering breeze. His doors were always open to the stranger and the fatherless; the indigent found in him a generous benefactor, and the oppressed a powerful protector. He delighted to remove the chilling hand of poverty from the unfortunate, and to pour the balm of comfort into the breast of the friendless. Filled with the generous principles of virtue and beneficence, he was not contented with enjoying happiness himself, but desirous of extending it to all the human race,

He always pitched his tents within sight of some principal road, that the very traveller might find refreshment, and rest securely after the toils of the day.

Among the rest that visited the hospitable tents of Barcas, was Selim, prince of Aden, who had been driven from his country by the Sophi of Persia. His countenance was clouded with cares and disappointments, and his attention wholly employed in meditating on his misfortunes.

Barcas received the unfortunate stranger with that cordial affection, which had endeared him to all the inhabitants of the neighbouring countries. He treated him in the most hospitable manner, and
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endeavoured, by a chearful and engaging conversation, to banish that melancholy which prayed upon his mind; but finding all his endeavours fruitless, he thus addressed the prince of Aden.

“Some misfortune, heavier than those common to the sons of men, has doubtless fallen upon thee, and thy spirits are unable to support the ponderous weight. But tell me, thou that hast drank deep of the cup of affliction, is it impossible to remove the cause of thy grief, or to mitigate thy sorrow? Is the dart of affliction pierced so far into thy breast that it cannot be drawn, and is the wound too deep to admit of a cure! Remember that the path of life lies along the margin of the river of adversity, and every human being is obliged to drink often of its bitter stream. But let not the misfortunes common to all the children of men discourage us, nor deprive us of those innocent pleasures which the bountiful Father of the universe hath scattered around us, with a liberal hand.”

“Thy reasonings, Barcas,” replied the stranger, “are doubtless just; but misfortunes like mine are too many to be removed, and too heavy to be supported. Thou canst not be a stranger to the melancholy state of Selim, Prince of Aden. He lately flourished like a tall cedar on the mountains, and was eminently distinguished among the princes of the earth. The oppressed of different nations implored his protection, and at his command the proud tyrants of the neighbouring countries laid the rod of oppression aside. But the haughty Persian prevailed against him, and laid all his honours in the dust. His populous cities are destroyed, and deluged with the blood of their inhabitants; his fruitful fields are turned into a desert, and his wives and children captives in the house of an imperious master.

O Barcas ! can misfortunes like these be supported with patience, or lessened by the generous aid of friendship ? I well know, that if thy wisdom can point out a remedy for my grief, thy sincere desire of being serviceable to all the sons and daughters of affliction, will not suffer thee to conceal it ; but this, I fear, is a task beyond thy power."

" Selim," replied the shepherd of Chaldee, " thy misfortunes are certainly grievous, and heavy to be borne ; but let not thy hours be spent in fruitless complainings, nor dare to pry into the arcana of heaven. Call not the afflictive turns of life evil, till thou art able to comprehend the intention for which they were sent, and the good which, for aught thou knowest, may arise from them. View thyself with care and sincerity, and take a true list of all thy vices ; remember the all-wise Being is best acquainted with thy frame, and considers thou art but a child of dust. Blame not the Governor of the universe because thou canst not search the profundity of his measures, nor find out the depth of his judgments ; consider thy sight at present is very imperfect, and confined within very narrow bounds. But thou shalt soon put off the veil of mortality, and thou shalt then be capable of surveying things which are now invisible. The clouds of misfortune and vapours of affliction shall be then dispersed, by the brightness of a clearer sun : the heavens shall no longer frown, but the sky exhibit a prospect of smiling serenity. The thunders of affliction shall no longer utter their hoarse voices, and the billows of grief which now rage, shall sink into a calm. Then shall the system of Providence be revealed, and the ways of heaven made known to the children of men. Learn therefore, Selim, to govern the unruly passions of thy repining soul, and reign emperor over thyself. Remember that the things thou hast lost, were only lent

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lent thee by that Being who formed the universe, and who hath not wrested them from thee by a tyrant's arm ; but for what purpose is impossible to be known, nor should wretched mortals dare to enquire. Submit thyself, therefore, to his pleasure, and bear thy misfortune with constancy and resignation. Wait with patience and submission, till thou art taken from the regions of mortality, and then shalt thou receive the reward of all thy labours."

These reflections revived the heart of Selim, and his countenance became tranquil and serene. He thanked the generous Barcas for his friendly advice, and departed from his hospitable tents in peace.

STORY of Three THIEVES.

AMONG the wicked there is no fidelity. Three villains having made a considerable booty at a small distance from a country town, agreed, that it was not expedient for all three to enter the town together, but that one of them only should go and buy provisions, and bring them to the place of rendezvous in the wood. Whilst he was gone, the two who were left consulted together, in order to enlarge their share of the booty, to kill their comrade as soon as he should return with their food. This was executed. But their murdered companion, who had formed precisely the same design against them, had, after satisfying his own appetite, poisoned the mess he brought for them. Thus all died by the treachery of each other.

The BENEFIT of going to LAW.

Found among the Papers of a Gentleman lately deceased.

GOING along the Strand the other day, I was accosted by my old acquaintance Tom Thoughtless; he ran to me with a great deal of seeming satisfaction, crying at the same time, "Wish me joy, wish me joy, old friend."

"Joy of what, pray?"

"Joy of what, why of the good fortune that be-tided me yesterday; but you have not heard of it yet. This inundation of luck quite overwhelms my senses, and renders me almost unintelligible! but to the business. You have heard me mention that about thirty years ago, Sam Squabble and I had a dispute about a piece of land of the value of five hundred pounds, which, has ever since been in Chancery, till last Tuesday I had a decree in my favour."

"Then I sincerely congratulate you, since you have so much reason to rejoice; for I imagine you must be considerably in pocket."

"In pocket; pshaw! how silly you talk, I am afraid you know nothing at all of the law. Why I think myself very happy in being only seven thousand pounds out of pocket. There was Dick Shatterbrain litigated an affair in which the original sum was only seventy pounds, and upon obtaining a decree in his favour, he found himself eleven thousand pounds worse than when he began. Why none but a fool would go to law with a design to be a gainer."

"If you do not go to law in order to be benefited, to what end do you go to law?"

"To

“ To what end ? to gain satisfaction to be sure, not to gain money.”

I endeavoured to convince my friend that he had not so much reason to rejoice as he might imagine, and that he might truly say with Hannibal, a few more such victories would ruin him. But he was proof against argument, for ever since he had been so connected with law, he had not been very conversant with reason ; so that finding our opinions did not tally, we took leave of each other with a great deal of cool complaisance.

Tom's case put me in mind of that excellent description of a law-suit in Hudibras :

He that by injury is griev'd,
And goes to law to be reliev'd,
Is sillier than a sottish chouse,
Who when a thief has robb'd his house,
Applies himself to cunning men
To help him to his goods again;
When all he can expect to gain,
Is but to squander more in vain.

A little German prince may as well go to war with the Grand Monarch, as a poor man contend with one who is rich ; for the justice of a cause will not bear the expence of a suit.

Among the Turks, where justice is done in a concise and summary way, no advocates are allowed ; for it never entered into their heads, that after proofs are produced, and the validity of those proofs confessed or denied, that a man's talking two or three hours could be of any use, either on the one side or the other.

In this nation, formerly one or two counsel were

thought sufficient on a side: but at present the number is so increased, that we may soon expect to see the whole bar drawn up in battle array, in every great cause, like two armies in opposition; and I believe the expence will be little short of that of an army.

If a cause, like a battle, was to be decided in a day, clients like soldiers might be contented; but the mischief is, the suit often lasts as long as the contending parties have money to carry it on, which I think is pertinently ridiculed by the before-mentioned author.

For lawyers, lest the bear defendant,
And plaintiff dog, shou'd make an end on't,
Do stay and tail with wits of error,
Reverse of judgement, and demurrer.
To let them breathe awhile, and then,
Cry *whoop*, and set them on again,
Until, with subtle cobweb cheats
They're catch'd in knotted law-like nets,
In which, when once they are embrangled,
'The more they stir, the more they're tangled,
For while their purses can dispute,
There's no end of th' immortal suit.

The laws, in themselves, are for the most part good; but numberless abuses have crept into the practice. Therefore, till a thorough reformation takes place, I would advise every honest man rather to search for butterflies in January—politeness in Holland—sincerity in France—virtue in a brothel,—or truth in a mountebank, than redress by law.

STORY of MAHOMET.

AFTER the taking of Constantinople by the Turks, a lady of the imperial blood, of exquisite beauty, was presented to the conqueror; who, though of a fierce disposition, become so passionately enamoured, that he wasted two years in the softnesses of the seraglio. The army murmured, at last mutinied, and called aloud for the Sultan to lead them out to war. Mahomet roused by their insolence, called a divan, summoned the officers of the janizaries, himself joined them, and led in a lady veiled in his hand: then with a furious look, demanded what right they had to trespass upon his pleasure; told them he was their emperor and lord, and they his slaves. "Nevertheless," says he, "for my own sake, I'll justify my own deeds." Saying this, he unveiled the lady, who was a perfect beauty, most splendidly adorned with jewels. "Are you satisfied," cries the emperor? "We are," was echoed back from the assembly; "but I am not," replied the Sultan; and wreathing his hand in the hair of the innocent captive, with his scymeter cut off her head at one blow. "See," says he, "your emperor is still master of himself; I am not to be taught my duty by you: I have only given the nations a breathing time, that they may be more worthy my conquering; when I rouse myself again, it shall be only of their ruin. Go, and prepare for war and danger; for where I command, you may tremble to obey."

The School of ADVERSITY. AN INDIAN STORY.

KALAHAD, a monarch of Indostan, reigned gloriously over a happy people, and seemed to want nothing to render his felicity complete, but a son to sway his sceptre, and perpetuate his virtues: To obtain this happiness was therefore his constant wish, and for which he incessantly offered up his prayers to the Deity; but for some years the son so earnestly requested was denied. At last, as he was one day enjoying the coolness of the air in an arbour erected in a thick grove of citron-trees, he fell into a slumber, and thought he was watering a vast cedar, from whose root there issued a large flame, which devoured all the trees of the adjacent forest.

A dream so uncommon filled his mind with various conjectures, and rendered him very solicitous of knowing what it portended. Accordingly, he sent for Chimas, his prime minister, and the most learned of all the sages of Indostan, to explain this vision. Chimas listened with profound attention to his master, and, when he had finished the relation, told him he would shortly have a son; but declined the interpretation of the other particulars till the next day, when all the sages of the kingdom were summoned to attend at the king's palace.

They did not fail to obey the commands of their monarch; and, in the midst of this assembly, Chimas confirmed the approaching birth of a prince; but refused to explain the meaning of the flame which issued from the foot of the tree, unless the king would promise not to be angry at what he was going to reveal. His majesty very readily gave his royal word, not to resent any thing that might fall from him in explaining this mysterious particular.

Chimas

Chimas having thus obtained the royal promise, addressed himself in the following manner to his master: "Thy reign, O powerful monarch of Indostan! hath been blessed with every thing thou couldest ask, or thy imagination conceive, except in having a son to sway thy sceptre, and govern the people of thy extensive dominions. Now heaven is going to add this gift to all the former, and convince thee, that the prayers of the virtuous are never offered in vain. But listen with attention to what I am now going to reveal. This son, who will abound in knowledge, and whose wisdom will resemble the flame that at once enlightens and cherishes, will prove the scourge of his subjects, exercise every kind of cruelty, and even massacre all the learned men in this kingdom: so incapable are mortals of knowing what will prove really advantageous to them, and of forming wishes to augment their happiness, unless assisted with wisdom from on high. But his tyranny will not always continue; adversity, which often teacheth mortals their errors, and turns the feet from the paths of vice to those of virtue, will force him to reflect on his actions, convince him of their enormity, and cause a total change in his conduct. Happiness will again smile in every habitation, and spread her wings over the desolate banks of the Ganges. The mouths that uttered the most dreadful imprecations on the head of their monarch, shall be filled with blessings, and the lisping tongues of infants shall be employed in wishing him every kind of prosperity.

"Such are the decrees of Providence; and surely he best knows what is most proper for the children of men. Therefore, O mighty Kalahad, who now fillest the throne of Indostan, and at whose footstool the kings of the East pay obedience, let not sorrow fill thy loyal breast; the miseries of thy kingdom

will not continue ; that Being who formed the universe, that causeth the sun to rise, and the refreshing showers of rain to fall on the thirsty land, will protect thy people, and teach the sons of mortals, that those who honour virtue are his peculiar care. Misery and distress may indeed for a short time surround their habitations, but will soon be succeeded by joy and gladness. They will vanish at the return of the prince to the paths of virtue, like darkness at the appearance of the rays of the morning."

The king, at hearing this interpretation of his dream, was filled with indignation, and told Chimas, that if he had not given his royal word that nothing should excite his rage, he would have punished him with the utmost severity. So unexpected an answer induced the sage to relate the following fable.

A cat, pinched by hunger, left the house where she had long continued, in search of sustenance. After a tedious journey, during which a heavy shower of rain had fallen, she discovered a rat, lodged in an adjacent rock. She approached him with the greatest signs of submission, and begged him to pity her distress. She described, in the most pathetic terms, and affecting tone of voice, the deplorable condition to which she was reduced ; and assured him, that notwithstanding the natural antipathy that existed between them, his life should be in no danger." To which the rat replied, " that he could not place any confidence in her fair speeches ; and that he was fearful, if he relied on her protestations, of falling a victim to her hunger ; adding, that he knew how imprudent it would be, to commit the sheep to the care of the wolf, or bring dry wood too near a large fire." The cat redoubled her intreaties, and made use of every argument to remove his fears : she told him, that if he was desirous of
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disarming an enemy, the best method was to embrace every opportunity of obliging him; and that a good action never failed of receiving its just reward. The rat answered, that he should, if he gave credit to her asseverations, resemble a man who thrusts his hand into the mouth of a lion. But the hypocritical cat continuing to repeat her vows of integrity, and resuming the plea of hospitality, the rat relented. "Let me, said he to himself, preserve this poor wretch from destruction; let me do good even to an enemy, though I loose my life by performing it: the Deity will surely protect him who endeavours to imitate his benevolence." Accordingly, he granted the cat admittance; but no sooner had this perfidious creature recovered her strength, than she flew upon her host, with an intent to destroy him. "Is this, exclaimed the rat, the manner in which you ratify your oaths? Is it thus you requite your benefactor, who commiserated your distress, and saved you from destruction?" His exclamations, however, were disregarded, and he was almost expiring, when some hounds espying the cat, mistook her for a fox, fell upon her, tore her to pieces, and delivered the hospitable rat."

Thus, added Chimas, it fares with those who violate their oaths. Justice from on high will overtake them; and when they think themselves secure from danger, the fatal blow will be given, and from which it is impossible for any mortal to escape.

Soon after, Kalahad's consort proved with child, and at the expiration of the term was delivered of a prince. The whole care of the Indian monarch now, was to form, by the assistance of Chimas, a plan of education for his son. And during his infancy, he built a palace for him, consisting of 360 apartments, selected three of the most learned men
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of his kingdom, and, when the prince was twelve years old, placed him with his tutors in this splendid structure. The sages had strict orders not to shew their royal pupil too much indulgence, nor neglect any thing that might tend to his instruction. Over the door of each apartment was written the name of the science he was there to learn, and furnished with every thing that had a tendency to facilitate the study of the particular branch of literature to which it was appointed.

Nor was the care of his royal father bestowed in vain; he improved surprisngly in knowledge, and his application to study was unbounded. He was conducted once every week to the palace of his father, where the royal pupil was examined in the different branches of science he had studied; and every examination gave the whole court fresh cause for wonder and astonishment. In short, he soon equalled his tutors in wisdom, and his name was famous in every part of the Indies. But this did not satisfy his royal father; he was desirous that his son should be publickly examined by Chimas himself; and accordingly summoned all the viziers and learned men in his empire to attend at the palace on the day appointed for his august examination.

Chimas in order to display the great talents of the prince to advantage, in this grand and solemn act, employed all that his great learning and profound wisdom could suggest. He proposed an infinite number of questions in philosophy, morality, and politics: and the prince answered them with a superiority above all the sages of the East. Among other things, Chimas asked him, whether the soul underwent any punishment, or whether it deserved any reward; because in this habitation of clay we discover only a violent propensity to evil? the prince, as an answer to this question, related the following fable.

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“ Two men, the one blind, and the other lame, were placed in a garden to take care of it; and, at the same time, strictly charged not to touch any of the fruit. But as soon as the rays of the sun had ripened them, the cripple was very desirous of tasting, what he was commanded not to touch. An unsurmountable difficulty, however, prevented him from indulging his appetite: the loss of his limbs rendered it impossible for him to climb the trees, or gather any of the fruit; he therefore had recourse to the blind man for assistance. The latter was surpris'd at the proposal, and represented to him that he could not conceive how he could assist him in such an enterprize as he was deprived of sight; adding, that as they were both placed in the garden to preserve the fruit, they would, by plucking what they were ordered to secure, shamefully disobey the commands of his master, and consequently could expect nothing less than the severest punishment. The lame man used several arguments to remove the scruples of his companion, and at last succeeded; when the blind man took him on his shoulders and carried him from tree to tree, while the cripple plucked the fruit. They had hardly satisfied their appetites, when the master came to take a view of his garden, and seeing the havock made in the fruit, was highly enraged. The two criminals would fain have excused themselves; the one alledging that for want of limbs it was impossible for him to climb the trees; and the other, that, being denied the benefit of sight, it was absurd to think he had gathered the fruit. But the master was not to be so easily deceived; he soon gave them to understand that he was no stranger to their stratagem, and the excuses they had formed to elude his enquiries. In short, the fact appeared so evident, that they could not deny it, and were both driven from the garden.

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“ The blind man, continued the prince, is the body, which sees nothing but through the interposition of the soul, which, like the lame man, cannot move without the assistance of the other. The garden is the world, which all men are more or less anxious of enjoying. The master of the garden is conscience, an impartial judge, placed by the Deity in the human breast, and which continually animates us to pursue the paths of virtue. The agreement made between the blind man and the cripple implies, that the body and soul concur together, to do good or evil, and consequently that they ought to share equally in the rewards of punishments.”

Another question asked by Chimas was, “Why the greatest men are sometimes guilty of the greatest excesses?” To which the prince answered by the following apologue :

“ A black eagle, soaring far above the clouds, thought himself safe from every danger. But a fowler, who had at a distance seen him ascend, took him for a kite, and fastened a piece of flesh to his nets. The eagle, whose great height prevented him from discerning the snare, though he saw the prey, resolved to possess it. Accordingly he darted from his height, like an arrow from an Indian bow, seized on the prey, but was taken in the snare of the fowler, who was surprized to find an eagle in a net he had spread only for small birds.”

The prince having answered every question that had been proposed to him was desirous of proposing some himself; and accordingly addressed several to the sagacious Chimas. But all his questions, like his answers, tended to prove, that his genius, his wisdom, and understanding, were equally admirable. Nor were his questions low and puerile; on the contrary, they related to the sublimest subjects; the creation of the world, and of matter; the origin of

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moral evil; the source of the passions; the operations of the Deity on the human soul, and the depravity of nature, were the topics debated.

The exercise being ended, the king named his son for his successor; and when he was eighteen years of age, Kalahad, who found himself drawing near his end, resigned to him his crown, and caused him to be publicly acknowledged heir of all his dominions. Nor did he forget to give him with his dying breath, the following most wholesome advice.

“ My son, said he, the angel of death is now approaching, and in a few moments a breathless carcass will be all that remains of the once powerful Kalahad. Remember, therefore, my son, that thou must now govern this mighty empire alone. Chimas, whose wisdom, experience, and integrity, I have long known, will give thee the wisest counsel. Listen, my son, to his advice; he will direct thy steps, and never suffer thee to wander from the paths of virtue. Remember, O youthful monarch of Indostan, that thy example will influence multitudes of people; it will constitute either their happiness or misery. If thou art careful to direct thy paths by the precepts of reason, and to listen to the dictates of conscience; if thou art indefatigable in punishing oppressors, and those who wallow in wickedness, and careful to encourage virtue and merit wherever it be found; then shall happiness dwell in thy palaces and plenty smile around thy habitations. Treachery shall be banished from the empire of Indostan, and rebellion seek refuge in the dark caverns of the mountains. The tongue of the hoary sage shall bless thee, and the shepherd, as he tends his flocks in the pastures of the Ganges, rehearse the glories of thy reign. Thus shall thy life glide on serenely; and when the angel of death receives his commission to put a period to thy existence, thou shalt receive the summons with tran-

tranquility, and pass, without fear, the gloomy valley that separates time from eternity: for remember my son, this life is nothing more than a short portion of duration, a prelude to another, that will never have an end. It is a state of trial, a period of probations; and as we spend it either in the service of virtue or vice, our state in the regions of eternity will be happy or miserable. Farewel, my son, I am arrived at the brink of the precipice that divides the regions of spirits from those inhabited by mortals: treasure the instructions of thy dying father in thy breast; practise them, and be happy."

At these words the great Kalahad embraced his son, and closed his eyes for ever. A torrent of tears burst from the eyes of his attendants, and the whole empire of Indostan was filled with sighs and lamentations for the loss of a prince, who might be justly styled the father of his people.

The young monarch of Indostan followed for some time the footsteps of his royal father, whose virtues seemed again to be revived in him. But his passions soon awoke, and the dangerous abuse of power, so fatal to the monarchs of the East, completed his irregularities. He collected into his seraglio the most celebrated beauties of the East, and spent his whole time in their company. Justice was no longer administered, and virtue was banished from the court of Indostan.

So amazing a change alarmed the whole kingdom. The vizirs and cadis assembled, and prevailed on the wise Chimas to undertake the difficult task of rousing the prince from that lethargy in which he lay, and drive the monster vice, with all her hateful train, from the palace. Chimas well knew the danger that attended so daring an experiment; but his love for his country, and his detestation of vice, though dressed in the robes of royalty, prevailed on him to undertake the task.

Accordingly the next morning, as soon as the early messengers of the day had withdrawn the curtains of the east, and adorned the blue mountains with rays of gold, Chimas repaired to the palace, and after great difficulties obtained admittance, and was introduced to the young monarch, who trembled at the sight of this faithful counsellor. Such power has virtue over the mind of a profligate, even when seated on an eastern throne! Chimas addressed himself to the monarch with that confident freedom, for which he was always remarkable, but took care to intersperse his discourse with fables, the only veil under which truth could find a passage through a herd of sycophant courtiers. He painted in the most glaring colours the distresses of the people, and the confusion that reigned through the whole empire of Indostan, and concluded in the following manner:

“ O youthful monarch, listen to the advice of one who is more desirous of thy happiness than his own. Leave for a moment these debilitating scenes of pleasure, to behold the miseries of thy people. When the great Kalahad, thy father, swayed the sceptre of this extensive empire, satisfaction smiled in every countenance, and the songs of rejoicing resounded in all parts of his dominions. But now a melancholy gloom hath covered the face of thy people, and nothing is heard but sorrow and lamentation. The lawless sons of riot commit every disorder with impunity, and vice triumphs in all parts of thy empire. Remember the instructions given thee by thy father, when he left the regions of mortality; follow his precepts, and joy and happiness shall again return, and thy people be delivered from every distress.”

The king promised Chimas that he would no

longer confine himself within his palace, but apply himself to the offices of government, labour to reform the abuses of which the people complain, and the next day administer justice in person. These resolutions spread a general joy ; but it proved of short duration. His base counsellors, on the departure of Chimas, obliterated the good impressions his advice had made on the heart of the monarch ; so that the next day, when the people assembled before the palace, they found it shut as usual.

Two days after Chimas paid a second visit to the king, and complained, in very sharp terms, of his breach of promise. The king, ashamed of his meekness, assured him, that on the morrow his subjects should have reason to be satisfied. But as soon as Chimas was departed, his favourites again destroyed these good intentions. Such is the abuse to which all human affairs are liable : truth and falsehood use the same weapons, and imperious eloquence is a two-edged sword.

The people again assembled ; and were again disappointed : which so exasperated them, that they took up arms and returned to the palace, determined to force the gates and set it on fire. The king and his wicked counsellors were now convinced of their injustice ; but knew not how to divert the storm which threatened them with destruction. In this extremity a dreadful resolution was taken to cut off all the great men of the kingdom, flattering themselves that when the leaders were no more, the rabble might be easily dispersed. In order to put this detestable scheme in execution, the prince sent for Chimas, and, by the most magnificent promise, engaged him to prevail on the people to lay down their arms, on which the king would immediately administer justice according to the ancient laws of the kingdom. Accordingly Chimas addressed himself

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to the people, and even promised them that they should be no longer deceived. His eloquence had the desired effect; the people dispersed, and retired to their respective habitations.

This dangerous tumult being thus happily appeased, Chimas, at the head of the vizirs, learned men, and generals of the army, repaired to the palace, where they were received with all the seeming marks of respect, and successively introduced into the palace; but instead of receiving the thanks their conduct justly merited, they were all massacred, by persons prepared to execute this bloody tragedy.

An action so full of horror inspired the populace with rage little less than madness; they assembled before the palace in the most tumultuous manner, and attempted to force the gates; but as this was not to be done suddenly, the king found means to escape through a small door in the garden. Soon after the people set fire to the palace-gates, and dragged these wicked counsellors who had given such inhuman advice to their monarch into the streets, where they suffered the punishment due to their crimes.

Having thus far vented their fury, they placed the son of Chimas, a youth about eighteen years of age, at the head of affairs; who, following the steps of his father, soon removed the evils complained of by the people, and made the wicked feel the weighty hand of justice.

In the mean time the young monarch wandered among the mountains of Indostan, where he suffered the greatest hardships. His food was wild fruits and roots, his drink the water that gushed from the rocks, his bed the rugged surface of the earth, and his covering the azure canopy of heaven. Here, exposed to all the inclemencies of the weather, he bewailed his former follies, and implored forgiveness
from

from his Maker. One day as he was thus employed, with his eyes fixed on the celestial arch, he was roused from his contemplations by the approach of a venerable old man, who seemed to totter under the weight of years.

“My son,” cried this aged mortal, “what corroding care preys on thy mind? and what terrible misfortune has driven thee from the habitations of men, to seek an asylum among the brute creation? I have many years resided in these sequestered parts; but never saw in them a man before. I have, however, found more solid pleasure here, than I ever could discover in all the companies of mirth and festivity, so common among the race of giddy mortals. And if thou wilt attend to my instructions, I will teach thee the path to happiness. It is the nature of man to consider all misfortunes as real evils: but this is a dangerous error. They are often intended by that Being who governs the universe, as gentle corrections, to remove the veil which pleasure throws over the objects that surround us; and turn our feet from the paths of destruction to those that lead to happiness and joy. Fortunate, my son, are those who consider misfortunes as the kind rebukes of an indulgent parent. Happy therefore will thy condition be, if they prove the means of teaching thee, how fleeting and unsatisfactory are the joys of the sons of men; and of fixing thy desires on those that are reserved for a future state of existence. Then shalt thou pass through this thirsty desert without complaining; and, at the end of thy journey, enter on pleasures that shall never have an end. Experience hath long since convinced me, that labour and sorrow are the portion of the sons of men, while they continue inhabitants of this earthly mansion. And when the hearts of youth are over, and calm reflection assumes her seat, thou wilt be fully convinced
of

of this great truth, and repent the moments thou hast squandered in the service of vice."

These words pierced like an arrow the heart of the exiled monarch, and drew a fresh flood of tears from his eyes. He again prostrated himself before the God of nature, and with a voice interrupted with sighs, thus answered the hoary hermit.

"O thou whom age and experience have taught wisdom, listen to my tale, and thou wilt be convinced, that I have abundant reason for my sorrow, and that my tears are not shed in vain. I am the son of the great Kalahad, and was lately seated on the throne of Indostan. My subjects willingly paid me obedience, and my praises echoed in every corner of my empire; but I forsook the paths of virtue, indulged myself in every kind of luxury, and paid no regard to the petitions of my people. I forsook the counsel of the wise and prudent, and listened to the advices of the young and foolish. Justice was no longer administered, nor the cries of the injured regarded. To put a stop to these excesses the populace assembled in a tumultuous manner before the palace; but instead of redressing their just complaints, I took the fatal resolution of putting their leaders to death; even the wise Chimas, who loved me with the affection of a father, fell a victim to my rage. But, alas! this horrid tragedy produced very different effects; the people mad with fury at the loss of their leaders, assaulted the palace, but before they could force a passage I escaped thro' the garden, and have ever since wandered in these pathless wastes, lamenting my weakness, and imploring forgiveness from the God of nature. But, alas! how can sorrow atone for my wretched conduct, or a torrent of tears wash out the stain of murder!"

The hermit stood for some time astonished; but at last, recovering himself, he cried out, "How
unfear-

unsearchable are the ways of Providence ! and how various are the methods used by the Almighty to teach wisdom to the sons of men ! Thou, O monarch of Indostan, hast known from experience the poignant pangs of a guilty conscience ; and adversity has taught thee this sacred truth ; that virtue only is productive of happiness. But return, O son of Kalahad ! to the capital of thy empire ; thy subjects will receive thee with open arms, and the son of Chimas, who now administers justice, will replace thee on the throne of thy ancestors. And may the sufferings thou hast endured in these barren wastes never be forgotten ; may they prove a constant monitor to remind thee of the follies of thy youth, and the kindness of heaven in pardoning thy frailties. And remember, my son, that those who follow the ways of vice, will at last plunge themselves into the gulph of destruction ; while the paths of virtue are paths of pleasantness, and lead to the regions of eternal repose."

The prince followed the hermit's advice, repaired to his capital, was kindly received by the son of Chimas, and governed his people happily for many years.

LIFE

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L I F E. A N O D E.

L I F E the dear precarious boon!
 Soon we lose, alas! how soon!
 Fleeting vision, falsely gay!
 Grasp'd in vain, it fades away,
 Mixing with surrounding shades,
 Lovely vision; how it fades!
 Let the muse in fancy's glass,
 Catch the phantoms as they pass:
 See they rise! a nymph behold
 Careless, wanton, young and bold;
 Mark her devious, hasty pace,
 Antic dress, and thoughtless face,
 Smiling cheeks, and roving eyes,
 Causeless mirth, and vain surprise—
 Tripping at her side, a boy
 Shares her wonder, and her joy:
 This is Folly, Childhood's guide,
 This is Childhood at her side.
 What is he succeeding now,
 Myrtles blooming on his brow.
 Bright, and blushing, as the morn,
 Not on earth a mortal born?
 Shafts, to pierce the strong I view;
 Wings, the flying to pursue;
 Victim of his power behind
 Stalks a slave of human kind,
 Whose disdain of all the free
 Speaks his mind's captivity.
 Love's the tyrant, Youth the slave,
 Youth in vain is wise or brave.
 Love with conscious pride defies
 All the brave and all the wise.
 Who art thou with anxious mien
 Stealing over the shifting scene?

L

Eyes,

Eyes, with tedious vigils red,
 Sighs, by doubts and wishes bred,
 Cautious step, and glancing tear,
 Speak thy woes, and speak thy fear ;
 Arm in arm, what wretch is he
 Like thy self who walks with thee ?
 Like thy own his fears and woes,
 All thy pangs his bosom knows :
 Well, too well ! my boding breast
 Knows the names your looks suggest,
 Anxious, busy, restless pair !
 Manhood, link'd by fate to Care.
 Wretched state ! and yet 'tis dear—
 Fancy, close the prospect here !
 Close it, or recall the past,
 Spare my eyes, my heart, the last.
 Vain the wish ! the last appears,
 While I gaze it swims in tears ;
 Age—my future self—I trace
 Moving slow with feeble pace,
 Bending with disease and cares,
 All the load of life he bears ;
 White his locks, his visage wan,
 Strength, and ease, and hope are gone.
 Death the shadowy form I know !
 Death o'ertakes him, dreadful foe !
 Swift they vanish—mournful sight,
 Night succeeds, impervious night !
 What these dreadful glooms conceal
 Fancy's glass can ne'er reveal ;
 When shall time the veil remove ?
 When shall light the scene improve ?
 When shall truth my doubts dispel ?
 Awful period ! who can tell ?

REFLECTIONS AT AN INN.

BY THE SEA-SIDE, AFTER A DANGEROUS
VOYAGE.

BRING me, O bring me to my Juliet's arms,
Whose beauty glads me, and whose virtue charms:
O snatch me swift from these tumultuous scenes,
To where love knows not what affliction means:
To where religion, peace, and comfort dwell,
And cheer with heavenly rays my lonely cell:
To where no ruffling winds, no raging seas,
Disturb the muse amidst her pensive ease:
Each passion calm; each mild affection mine;
Each social grace; each human; each divine;
Unknown in private, or in public strife,
Soft sailing down the placid stream of life:
Aw'd by no terrors, with no cares perplex'd;
This life—my gentle passage—to the next.

Yet—if it please thee best—thou Power Supreme!
To drive my bark thro' life's more rapid stream,
If lowering storms my destin'd course attend,
And ocean rage till this black voyage end;
Let ocean rage—let storms indignant roar,
I bow submissive; and, resign'd, adore:
Resign'd, adore: in various changes try'd;
Thy own lov'd Son, my anchor, and my guide:
Resign'd, adore; whate'er thy will decree,
My faith in Jesus, and my hope in thee.

O happiest lot! if thro' a sea of woes,
I reach that harbour where the just repose.

A DESCRIPTION of SPRING in LONDON.

NOW new vampt filks the mercer's window
 shows,
 And his spruce 'prentice wears his Sunday cloths,
 His annual suit with nicest taste renew'd,
 The reigning cut and colour still pursu'd.
 The barrow now, with oranges a score,
 Driven at once by gamester and a whore,
 No longer gulls the strippling of his pence,
 Who learns that poverty is nurse to sense.
 Much-injur'd trader whom the law pursues,
 The law which whink'd, and beckon'd to the Jews,
 Why should the beedle drive thee from the street?
 To sell is always a pretence to cheat.
 "Large stewing oysters" in a deepening groan,
 No more resounds, nor "mussels" shriller tone;
 Seven days to labour now is held no crime,
 And Moll "new mackrel" screams in sermon time.
 In ruddy bunches radishes are spread,
 And Nan with choice pickt sallads loads her head,
 Now in the suburb window, Christmas green,
 The bays and holly are no longer seen,
 But sprigs of garden-mint in vials grow,
 And gather'd laylocks perish as they blow.
 The truant school-boy now at eve we meet,
 Fatigued and sweating thro' the crowded street.
 His shoes embrown'd at once with dust and clay,
 With white-thorn loaded, which he takes for May.
 Round his flapp'd hat in rings the cowslips twine,
 Or in cleft osiers form a golden line,
 On milk-pail rear'd the borrow'd salvers glare,
 Topp'd with a tankard, which two porters bear.
 Reeking they slowly toil o'er rugged stones,
 And joyless beldames dance with aking bones:

More

More blithe the powder'd tye-wigg'd sons of foot,
 Trip to the shovel with a shoeless foot.
 In gay Vauxhall now saunter beaux and belles,
 And happier cits resort to Sadler's-wells.

ON THE FOLLY OF ATHEISM.

HOW weak the Atheist's argument, how odd ?
 Who to be happy first denies a God ;
 Then, with too little faith truth to believe,
 Can shew too much, an error to conceive,
 So inconsistent, and his folly such,
 He trusts too little, while he trusts too much.
 A foe profess'd to God Almighty's laws,
 Yet a blind bigot in the devil's cause ;
 He from free-thinking hopes to gain some light ;
 Thinks free on every subject, but the right ;
 A hint there is a God raises a doubt,
 And prejudice puts weaker reason out :
 Of reason proud, by passion rul'd alone,
 Because he'd have no God, concludes there's none ;
 Thinks chance with blind effect nice order brings,
 And harmony from wild confusion springs,
 Springs of itself—for all spontaneous grow,
 And the created are creators too :
 Then immortality he'll disbelieve,
 Yet starts to think he cannot always live ;
 Dreading it true, a future state denies,
 And while he laughs at death, with fear he dies ;
 Despairing launches to some future state,
 Repents his folly—but repents too late.

AN ELEGY, written in a country Church-yard.

THE curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
 The lowering herd winds slowly o'er the lea,
 The plowman homeward plods his weary way
 And leaves the world to darkness and to me.

Now fades the glimm'ring landscape on the sight,
 And all the air a solemn stillness holds;
 Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight,
 Or drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds:

Save that from yonder ivy-mantled tow'r,
 The moping owl does to the moon complain
 Of such, as wand'ring near the secret bow'r,
 Molest her ancient solitary reign.

Beneath those rugged elms, that yew-tree's shade,
 Where heaves the turf in many a mould'ring heap,
 Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,
 The rude fore-father's of the hamlet sleep.

The breezy call of incense-breathing morn,
 The swallow twitt'ring from the straw-built shed,
 The cock's shrill clarion, or the echoing horn
 No more shall rouse them from their lowly bed.

For them no more the blazing hearth shall burn,
 Or busy house-wife ply her evening care,
 No children run to lift their fires return,
 Or climb his knees the env'y'd kifs to share.

Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield,
 Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe has broke,
 How jocund did they drive their team to field!
 How bow'd the woods beneath their sturdy stroke!

Let not ambition mock their useful toil,
 Their homely joys and destiny obscure,
 Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile,
 The short and simple annals of the poor.

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
 And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,

Await

Await alike the inevitable hour ;
The paths of glory lead but to the grave :

Nor you, ye proud, impute to these the fault,
If mem'ry o'er their tomb no trophies raise,
Where thro' the long drawn isle and fretted vault,
The pealing anthem swells the note of praise,

Can story'd urn, or animated bust,
Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath ?
Can honour's voice provoke the silent dust,
Or flattery sooth the dull cold ear of death ?

Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid,
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire :
Hands that the reigns of empire might have sway'd,
Or wak'd to ecstasy the living lyre.

But knowledge to their eyes her ample page,
Rich with the spoils of time did ne'er unroll ;
Chill penury express'd their noble rage,
And froze the genial current of the soul.

Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear ;
Full many a flower is blown to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness in the desert air.

Some village Hampden, that with dauntless breast,
The little tyrant of his fields withstood,
Some mute inglorious Milton here may rest,
Some Cromwell guiltless of their country's blood.

Th' applause of list'ning senates to command,
The threats of pain and ruin to despise,
To scatter plenty o'er a smiling land,
And read their hist'ry in a nation's eyes.

Their lot forbad : not circumscrib'd alone
Their growing virtues, but their crimes confin'd
Forbad to wade thro' slaughter to a throne,
And shut the gates of mercy on mankind.

The struggling pangs of conscious truth to hide,
To quench the blushes of ingenuous shame,
Or heap the shrine of luxury and pride
With incense kindled at the muse's flame.

Far from the madding cloud's ignoble strife,
 Their sober wishes never learn'd to stray;
 Among the cool sequester'd vale of life,
 They kept the noiseless tenor of their way.

Yet e'en these bones from insult to protect
 Some frame memorial still erected high,
 With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture deck'd,
 Implores the passing tribute of a sigh.

Their name, their years, spelt by th' unletter'd muse,
 The place of fame and elegy supply,
 And many a holy text around the strews,
 That teach the rustic moralist to die.

For whom to dumb forgetfulness a prey,
 This pleasing anxious being e'er resign'd,
 Left the warm precincts of the cheerful day,
 Nor cast one longing, ling'ring look behind!

On some fond breast the parting soul relies,
 Some pious drop the closing eye requires:
 Ee'n from the tomb the voice of nature cries,
 Ee'n in our ashes live their wonted fires.

For thee, who mindful of the unhonour'd dead,
 Dost in these lines their artless tale relate,
 If chance, by lonely contemplation led,
 Some kindred spirit shall enquire thy fate,

Haply some hoary-headed swain may say,
 "Oft have we seen him at the peep of dawn
 Brushing with hasty steps the dews away,
 To meet the sun upon the upland lawn

There at the foot of yonder nodding beech,
 That wreaths its old fantastic roots so high,
 His listless length at noon-tide would he stretch,
 And pore upon the brook that bubbles by.

Hard by yon wood, now smiling as in scorn,
 Muttering his way-ward fancies, he would rove:
 Now drooping, woful, wan, like one forlorn,
 Or craz'd with care or cross'd in hopeless love.

One morn I miss'd him on the custom'd hill,
 Along the heath and near his fav'rite tree:

Another came, nor yet beside the rill,
Nor up the lawn, nor at the wood was he :

The next, with dirges due, in sad array,
Slow thro' the church-way path we saw him borne ;
Approach and read (for thou canst read) the lay
Grav'd on the stone beneath yon aged thorn.

There scatter'd oft the earliest of the year,
By hands unseen are showers of violets found ;
'The red-breast loves to build and warble there,
And little footsteps lightly print the ground.

THE EPITAPH.

HERE rests his head upon the lap of earth,
A youth to fortune and to fame unknown :
Fair science frown'd not on his humble birth,
And melancholy mark'd him for her own.
Large was his bounty, and his soul sincere ;
Heav'n did a recompence as largely send :
He gave to mis'ry (all he had) a tear ;
He gain'd from heav'en ('twas all he wish'd) a friend.
No further seek his merits to disclose,
Or draw his frailties from their dread abode,
(There they alike in trembling hope repose)
The bosom of his father and his God.

The disappointed MILK-MAID.

HOW poorly your projectors fare,
That build their castles in the air ;
Still tow'ring on from scheme to scheme,
They top Olympus in a dream ;
But waking find (nineteen i'th' score)
Themselves far lower than before.
Of these the instances are many,
And this will serve as well as any.

It

It happen'd on a summer's day,
 A country lass, as fresh as May,
 Deck'd in a wholesome russet gown,
 Was going to a market town ;
 So blith her looks, so simply clean,
 You'd take her for a May-day queen,
 Save 'stead of garland, says my tale,
 Her head bore Brindy's loaded pail.
 As on her way she pass'd along,
 She humm'd the fragments of a song ;
 She did not hum for want of thought,
 Quite pleas'd with what to sale she brought ;
 And reckon'd, by her own account,
 When all was sold, the whole amount.
 'Thus she—in time, this little ware
 May turn to great account with care :
 My milk being sold for—so and so,
 I'll buy some eggs as markets go,
 And set them—at the time I fix,
 These eggs will bring as many chicks ;
 I'll spare no pains to feed them well,
 They'll bring vast profit when they sell.
 With this I'll buy a little pig,
 And when 'tis grown up fat and big,
 I'll sell it, whether boar or sow,
 And with the money buy a cow ;
 This cow will surely have a calf,
 And there's the profits half in half ;
 Besides there's butter, milk, and cheese,
 To keep the market when I please :
 All which I'll sell and buy a farm,
 Then shall of sweethearts have a swarm.
 Oh ! then for ribbands, gloves and rings !
 Ay ! more than twenty pretty things.
 One brings me this, another that,
 And I shall have —the Lord knows what.
 Fir'd with the thoughts, the frantic lass,
 Of what was thus to come to pass,

Her

Her heart beat strong, she gave a bound,
 And down came milk-pail on the ground,
 Eggs, fowls, pig, hog (ah! well-a-day)
 Cow, calf, and farm—all swam away.

THE APPLE-PYE.

A Man of wisdom may disguise
 His knowledge, and not seem too wise;
 But take it for a constant rule,
 There's no concealing of a fool.
 Of this the instances are plenty,
 But one may serve as well as twenty.

A wealthy knight of good estate,
 Was so extreme unfortunate,
 That with great cost, and fruitless care,
 He rear'd a blockhead to his heir:
 But hoping it would mend the breed,
 Should he some sober damsel wed,
 He sent him out to court a lady
 Whose father he'd engag'd already,
 But first he charg'd him on his blessing,
 To keep in mind this easy lesson:
 ' Humphrey, says he, whate'er you do,
 ' Take heed your words be very few:
 ' For you'll be counted wise, so long
 ' As you have wit to hold your tongue:
 ' And never feed too greedily,
 ' On custard, pudding, or sweet pye,
 ' Lest your ungovern'd appetite
 ' Bring shame and sorrow in the night.—
 ' But John shall go, for he'll advise ye,
 ' And let me tell you, John's no nisey.
 ' Here, John! d'ye mind give Numps a touch.
 ' Whene'er he talks or eats too much;
 ' But sure take heed you don't neglect,
 ' To pay the gentry great respect,

' And

' And all our services exprefs
 ' In handsome terms, with good address.'
 Instructed thus they both took horse,
 And tow' rds the lady bent their course;
 Whilst John perform'd the teacher's part,
 Numps got his compliments by heart:
 Which he deliver'd in such guise,
 They thought him tolerably wise:
 He held his tongue, which seem'd to be
 A token of his modesty,
 All pass'd on well, till supper came:
 Oh hateful meal! Oh hateful name!
 Vile author of poor Humphrey's shame!
 From ev'ry dish, most nicely dress'd,
 Th' old lady still supply'd her guest.
 All with astonishment beheld
 His plate oft empty, often fill'd.
 He eat, John pull'd, and pull'd again,
 Thy pulls, O John! are all in vain;
 For near him stood an apple-pye,
 On which he cast a greedy eye.
 Then fill'd his plate six inches high.
 John gave his elbow many a twitch;
 Thought Numps, our John may kiss my br—h,
 'Tis apple-pye—I'll eat my fill,
 Let consequence be what it will.
 Fatal resolve! I dread to tell
 The consequences which besel.
 Let fordid nightmen tell the rest,
 Who relish the unfavoury jest,
 My dainty music would fain have done,
 But truth commands, she must go on.
 In the best bed the 'squire must lie,
 And John in truckle bed just by,
 Who slept, till with a dismal groan,
 He cry'd at midnight, help, dear John!
 Or else for ever I'm undone.

For

For heaven's sake, find some excuse,
 The dev'lish apple-pye's broke loose;
 And as I've laid upon't and rool'd it,
 The bed's scarce big enough to hold it.

John wak'd and thus began to pray,
 ' The devil take all fool, I say,
 ' Why choke you, eat it up again,
 ' And lick the sheets and blankets clean.
 '—What can be done?—here, take my shirt,
 ' And I'll come wallow in the dirt,
 ' Do you get up as soon as light,
 ' I'll lie and try to set all right.'

So said, so done, up got the 'squire,
 And John lay tumbling in the mire.
 He lay till two brisk lasses came,
 To make the bed, and clean the room.
 Soon in the damask bed, friend John
 Was spy'd, half bury'd in the down.
 ' What's here, quoth Nell, as I'm alive
 ' The master rose soon after five;
 ' Here is his man, a lazy loon,
 ' Intends to lie a bed till boon.'

Quoth John, I've had a tedious night,
 ' That truckle bed has lam'd me quite.
 ' I turn'd in here: to take some rest;
 ' This is a comfortable nest.
 ' One nap, dear girls, is all I beg.
 ' —A nap! Sue, give him some cold pig.
 ' Come, come, says John, don't play the fool;
 ' I'm laxative, you'll make me pull,
 ' And straining hard will force a stool.'

They pull'd, John squeez'd, and gave a grunt,
 Then cry'd aloud—' good faith I've don't!
 ' E'en thank yourselves---away ran Nell,
 And Sue half poison'd with the smell.

This story slept not you may swear,
 But quickly reach'd the master's ear.

His

His lordship, tickl'd with the whim,
 Cou'd not forbear at dinner-time
 Do banter John ; nor did he fail
 T'enlarge upon this curious tale.
 But seeing John with shame cast down,
 He frankly tipt him half a crown.
 John took't and bow'd---Numps sitting by,
 Seeing the prize with envious eye,
 Into John's fob directly go,
 Cry'd out aloud, why, John, you know
 ' The half crown is by right my due,
 ' 'Twas I be---t the bed not you.'

Oh blunder ! never to be mended !
 This one wise speech the courtship ended.
 Home trotted John in doleful dumps,
 And far behind sneak'd hopeful Numps ;
 While Miss, deliver'd from her 'squire,
 Found a clean lover to lie by her.

The Difference between YOUTH and AGE demonstrated.

AN ancient dame, who clean and clear,
 Had reckon'd up her ninetieth year,
 At dinner, with her toothless mouth,
 Attack'd a gristle hard and tough :
 The gristle she essay'd to chew,
 Out of her mouth elastic flew,
 And fell direct across the table,
 Close by a youngster, stout and able.
 The youth, who thought, at any rate,
 It must have fall'n from his plate,
 Did with a swallow and a smack,
 Dispatch the gristle in a crack,
 ' Strange, quoth the dame, but yet 'tis truth,
 ' Such difference is 'twixt age and youth,

' Dear

' Dear me, how long have I been fumbling,
 ' And kept a mumbling, still and mumbling ;
 ' When this young man has in a whistle,
 ' Devour'd my second-handed gristle !'
 The youth he shrug'd, and look'd askew,
 And then this prudent inference drew :
 ' We should be virtuous in our prime,
 ' Reflecting on that tooth-drawer, Time,
 ' And live by moral maxims aw'd,
 ' While yet the gristle's to be gnaw'd.'

A Whimsical WILL

SINCE youth and age must quit the stage,
 And, either soon or late,
 By death be hurl'd out of the world ;
 So stern the will of fate :
 I, in the prime of health and time,
 Without regret, divide,
 And frankly share what I must spare,
 As reason deigns to guide.
 Imprimus. To the wrangling crew
 Of catchpoles and attornies,
 I leave my feet, light, quick, and fleet,
 To speed them on their journies.
 And, as I know their fund's so low
 I, to their other talents,
 Add scruples three of honesty,
 Their dark accounts to balance.
 In this bequest, above the rest,
 I had been more profuse ;
 But that, it's plain, one single grain
 Is more than e'er they use.
 To thirty fots I leave full pots
 Of water mix'd with gall,
 And, what's far worse, an empty purse,
 And credit sunk withal.

To

To coquets nice, this sage advice
 I leave to all their clan,
 To lay aside their empty pride,
 And marry when they can.
 To formal prudes, whom love excludes,
 Despair and rotten teeth ;
 Wrinkles, grey hairs, and all the cares
 Old maids are pester'd with.
 The dastard's part shall be my heart,
 My fortitude and spirit ;
 And such as fret, and oft take pet,
 My patience shall inherit.
 The beauteous fair, my love shall share,
 Who's virtuous, true, and loyal ;
 The rest I leave, rakes to deceive,
 And stand the old maid's trial.
 Such tools of state, whom public hate
 Has wrapp'd in dark disguise,
 Who grasp at pow'r, and wealth devour,
 To justice I devise.
 Each noisy scold, who uncontrol'd,
 By reason can't be civil,
 But din mankind, I leave, consign'd,
 To bedlam at the d——l.

ON MAN'S LIFE.

MAN is a glass, life is a water
 That's weakly wall'd about :
 Sin brings in death, and breaks the glass,
 So runs the water out.

F I N I S.

